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THE  
OEDIPUS TYRANNUS  
OF  
SOPHOCLES.

*HARVARD UNIVERSITY,*

*SANDERS THEATRE,*

*MAY 17, 19, AND 20, 1881.*

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THE GREEK DEPARTMENT.

A 775377

NOTE.

THE translation is that of Professor LEWIS CAMPBELL, of the University of St. Andrews. It has been found to be necessary to introduce changes in verses 444, 624 and 625, and 1169 and 1170.

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## THE ARGUMENT.

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OEDIPUS was the son of Laïus and Jocasta, who were King and Queen of Thebes. His birth had been forbidden, and his parents sent him to be exposed on Mount Cithaeron. But the messenger took pity on the child, and gave him to a servant of Polybus the King of Corinth, who adopted him.

Years afterwards, Laïus went on a mission to Delphi, and was met by Oedipus, who had just received a dreadful oracle there, and was afraid to return to Corinth. The strangers quarrelled, and Oedipus slew his father. One of the attendants of Laïus escaped. It was the same man who had spared him when a child. Oedipus passed on and came to Thebes, where the news of the death of Laïus found the city already in distress. The Sphinx was killing all who failed to solve her riddle. But Oedipus solved it, and delivered Thebes. He was rewarded with the vacant throne and with the hand of the queen,—his mother Jocasta.

After another interval of several years, a pestilence falls upon the city, and the oracle declares that it is for the blood of Laïus. Oedipus undertakes to find the murderer, and with the help of the old servant, who is brought from his retreat, unveils the horror of his birth.



THE  
OEDIPUS TYRANNUS.



TEXT AND TRANSLATION.

## ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.



### ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

#### ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ γερόντων *Θηβαίων.*

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ *Λαίου.*

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

#### ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ τέκνα, Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι νέα τροφή, [*Introit.*  
τίνας ποθ' ἔδρας τάσδε μοι θοάζετε  
ἰκτηρίοις κλάδοισιν ἐξεστεμμένοι ;  
πόλις δ' ὁμοῦ μὲν θυμιαμάτων γέμει,  
ὁμοῦ δὲ παιάνων τε καὶ στεναγμάτων · 5  
ἀγὰ δικαιῶν μὴ παρ' ἀγγέλων, τέκνα,  
ἄλλων ἀκούειν αὐτὸς ὧδ' ἐλήλυθα,  
ὁ πᾶσι κλεινὸς Οἰδίπους καλούμενος.  
ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιέ, φράζ', ἐπεὶ πρέπων ἔφυσ  
πρὸ τῶνδε φωνεῖν, τίνι τρόπῳ καθέστατε, 10  
δείσαντες ἢ στέρξαντες ; ὡς θέλοντος ἄν

# KING OEDIPUS.

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## PERSONS REPRESENTED.

OEDIPUS, <i>King of Thebes.</i>	SERVANT of <i>Laius.</i>
JOCASTA, <i>his wife.</i>	
CREON, <i>her brother.</i>	MUTE PERSONS.
TEIRESIAS, <i>a blind seer.</i>	ANTIGONE, } <i>Youthful Daughters of</i>
PRIEST of <i>Zeus.</i>	ISMENE, } <i>Oedipus.</i>
CHORUS of <i>Theban old men.</i>	SUPPLIANTS; BOY, <i>attendant on Tei-</i>
MESSSENGER <i>from Corinth.</i>	resias; ATTENDANTS on <i>Oedipus,</i>
MESSSENGER <i>from within the Palace.</i>	Jocasta, and <i>Creon, two to each.</i>

SCENE. — *Before the Royal Palace in Boeotian Thebes.*

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OEDIPUS. — PRIEST OF ZEUS. — SUPPLIANTS.

OEDIPUS.

Children, young care of Cadmus' ancient fold,  
Why press ye so to kneel beside the gate,  
With wool-tufts on each suppliant olive-bough,  
Whilst o'er your city clouds of incense rise,  
And mingled voice of pæan and of wail?  
Not choosing, O my sons, to know of this  
By the ear from others, I myself am come,  
Great Oedipus, of universal fame.  
Thou, aged sir, whose look proclaims thee meet  
To speak for these, say, what hath brought you here,  
What terror, what desire? Fear not but I

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ἐμοῦ προσαρκεῖν πᾶν· δυσάλητος γὰρ ἂν  
εἶην τοιάνδε μὴ οὐ κατοικτεῖρων ἔδραν.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ἀλλ', ὦ κρατύνων Οἰδίπους χώρας ἐμῆς,  
ὄρᾳς μὲν ἡμᾶς ἡλίκοι προσήμεθα 15  
βωμοῖσι τοῖς σοῖς, οἱ μὲν οὐδέπω μακρὰν  
πτέσθαι σθένοντες, οἱ δὲ σὺν γήρᾳ βαρεῖς,  
ιερῆς, ἐγὼ μὲν Ζηνός, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἠθέων  
λεκτοί· τὸ δ' ἄλλο φύλον ἐξεστεμμένον  
ἀγοραῖσι θακεῖ, πρὸς τε Παλλάδος διπλοῖς 20  
ναοῖς, ἐπ' Ἴσμηνοῦ τε μαντεῖα σποδῶ.  
πόλις γάρ, ὥσπερ καὺτὸς εἰσορᾶς, ἄγαν  
ἤδη σαλεύει κἀνακουφίσει κἀρα  
βυθῶν ἔτ' οὐχ οἶα τε φοινίου σάλου,  
φθίνουσα μὲν κάλυξιν ἐγκάρποις χθονός, 25  
φθίνουσα δ' ἀγέλαις βουνόμοις, τόκοισί τε  
ἀγόνοις γυναικῶν· ἐν δ' ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς  
σκήψας ἐλαύνει, λοιμὸς ἔχθιστος, πόλιν,  
ὑφ' οὗ κενούται δῶμα Καδμείον· μέλας δ'  
Ἄιδης στεναγμοῖς καὶ γόοις πλουτίζεται. 30  
θεοῖσι μὲν νυν οὐκ ἰσούμενόν σ' ἐγὼ  
οὐδ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐξόμεσθ' ἐφέστιοι,  
ἀνδρῶν δὲ πρῶτον ἔν τε συμφοραῖς βίου  
κρίνοντες ἔν τε δαιμόνων συναλλαγαῖς·  
ὄς τ' ἐξέλυσας, ἄστν Καδμείον μολών, 35  
σκληρᾶς ἀοιδοῦ δασμὸν ὃν παρείχομεν·  
καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν οὐδὲν ἐξειδῶς πλέον

KING OEDIPUS.

Will use all power to succour you. My heart  
Were hard to move, were it not stirred by you.

PRIEST.

Great ruler of my country, thou behold'st  
What diverse ages hem thine altar round;  
Some not yet able to fly far, and some  
Burdened with many years, Heaven's ministers,  
I, priest of Jove, — and these, a chosen band  
From our fresh youth. Another troop, arrayed,  
Like us, with fillets, crowd the market-place.  
Others are kneeling at the twofold shrines  
Of Pallas, and Ismenus' prophet-fire: —  
Because our land, as thou perceiv'st, is tossed  
Exceedingly, and cannot lift her head  
From fierce engulfing by a murderous sea.  
Earth's buds are wasted, and the grazing herds.  
Pine, and our women have not strength to bear,  
While fiery Pestilence, detested power,  
Is fallen upon our city in his might,  
Emptying the house of Cadmus, and dark Death  
Hath full fruition of laments and groans.  
We therefore and these children at thy hearth,  
Not likening thee unto the gods, are set,  
But holding thee of men pre-eminent  
In human fortunes, and affairs divine;  
Who, in thy coming to this Theban town,  
Didst free us from the tribute we had paid  
To that harsh songstress, nought advantagèd  
By aught we had to tell thee, or could teach,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἐκδιδαχθεῖς, ἀλλὰ προσθήκη θεοῦ  
λέγει νομίζει θ' ἡμῖν ὀρθῶσαι βίου·  
νῦν τ', ὃ κρῦτιστον πᾶσιν Οἰδίου κάρα, 40  
ἱκετεύομέν σε πάντες οἷδε πρόστροποι  
ἀλκὴν τιν' εὐρεῖν ἡμῖν, εἴτε του θεῶν  
φήμην ἀκούσας εἴτ' ἀπ' ἀνδρὸς οἴσθ' ἄποι·  
ὡς τοῖσιν ἐμπείροισι καὶ τὰς ξυμφορὰς  
ζώσας ὀρῶ μάλιστα τῶν βουλευμάτων. 45  
ἴθ', ὃ βροτῶν ἄριστ', ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν·  
ἴθ', εὐλαβήθηθ'· ὡς σὲ νῦν μὲν ἦδε γῆ  
σωτήρα κλήζει τῆς πάρος προθυμίας·  
ἀρχῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς μηδαμῶς μεμνώμεθα  
στάντες τ' ἐς ὀρθον καὶ πεσόντες ὕστερον, 50  
ἀλλ' ἀσφαλείᾳ τήνδ' ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν.  
ὄρνιθι γὰρ καὶ τὴν τότ' αἰσίῳ τύχην  
παρέσχεες ἡμῖν, καὶ τανῦν ἴσος γενουῦ.  
ὡς εἴπερ ἄρξεις τῆσδε γῆς, ὥσπερ κρατεῖς,  
ξὺν ἀνδράσιν κάλλιον ἢ κενῆς κρατεῖν· 55  
ὡς οὐδέν ἐστιν οὔτε πύργος οὔτε ναῦς  
ἔρημος ἀνδρῶν μὴ ξυνοικούντων ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ παῖδες οἰκτροί, γνωτὰ κοῦκ ἄγνωτά μοι  
προσήλθεθ' ἰμείροντες. εἴ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι  
νοσεῖτε πάντες, καὶ νοσοῦντες, ὡς ἐγὼ 60  
οὐκ ἔστιν ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐξ ἴσου νοσεῖ.  
τὸ μὲν γὰρ ὑμῶν ἄλγος εἰς ἓν ἔρχεται  
μόνον καθ' αὐτόν, κοῦδέν' ἄλλον, ἢ δ' ἐμῇ



KING OEDIPUS.

But by the aid of some supernal mind  
'Tis thought and said thou didst restore our life.  
Now, then, O Oedipus of mighty fame,  
We turn our suppliant faces unto thee,  
Together praying thee to find for us  
Some succour, if thou knowest, whether from man,  
Or whispered to thee by some voice from Heaven.  
Experienced counsel, we have seen and found,  
Hath ever prosperous issue. Thou, then, come,  
Noblest of mortals, give our city rest  
From trouble; come, take thought, for to this hour  
All here proclaim thee for thy former zeal  
Their saviour. Let us not remember thee  
As having risen underneath thy sway  
To fair prosperity, and after fallen :  
But be thy restoration without fail.  
Be now, as then, auspicious in thine aid.  
'Tis better for the sovereign of a land  
To rule a people than a wilderness.  
For what availeth ship, or fenced wall,  
Untenanted of living men within ?

OEDIPUS.

Alas, my children ! Not unknown to me  
Is the sad quest on which ye come. I know  
Ye all are suffering. Yet not one of you  
Can equal his calamity to mine.  
Yours is the simple grief that visiteth  
One single bosom. But my burdened soul

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ψυχή πόλιν τε κάμει καὶ σ' ὁμοῦ στένει.  
 ὥστ' οὐχ ὕπνω γ' εὔδοντά μ' ἐξεγείρετε, 65  
 ἀλλ' ἴστε πολλὰ μὲν με δακρύσαντα δῆ,  
 πολλὰς δ' ὁδοὺς ἐλθόντα φροντίδος πλάνοις.  
 ἦν δ' εὖ σκοπῶν εὔρισκον ἴασιν μόνην,  
 ταύτην ἔπραξα· παῖδα γὰρ Μενοικέως  
 Κρέοντ', ἐμαντοῦ γαμβρόν, ἐς τὰ Πυθικὰ 70  
 ἔπεμψα Φοίβου δώμαθ', ὡς πύθοιθ' ὅ τι  
 δρῶν ἢ τί φωνῶν τήνδε ῥυσαίμην πόλιν.  
 καί μ' ἦμαρ ἤδη ξυμμετρούμενον χρόνον  
 λυπεῖ τί πράσσει· τοῦ γὰρ εἰκότος πέρα  
 ἄπεστι πλείω τοῦ καθήκοντος χρόνου. 75  
 ὅταν δ' ἴκηται, τηνικαυτ' ἐγὼ κακὸς  
 μὴ δρῶν ἂν εἶην πάνθ' ὅσ' ἂν δηλοῖ θεός.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰς καλὸν σύ τ' εἶπας οἶδε τ' ὑρτίως  
 Κρέοντα προσστείχοντα σημαίνουσί μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦναξ' Ἀπολλων, εἰ γὰρ ἐν τύχῃ γέ τω  
 σωτήρι βαίῃ λαμπρὸς ὥσπερ ὄμματι. 80

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰκάσαι μὲν, ἠδύς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κἄρα  
 πολυστεφῆς ὧδ' εἶρπε παγκάρπου δάφνης.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τάχ' εἰσόμεσθα· ξύμμετρος γὰρ ὡς κλύειν.  
 ἀναξ, ἐμὸν κήδευμα, παῖ Μενοικέως, 85  
 τίς ἡμῖν ἦκεις τοῦ θεοῦ φήμην φέρων ;

KING OEDIPUS.

Mourns for myself, my citizens, and thee.  
And now ye rouse me not from the soft bed  
Of slumber, but full many have been my tears,  
Many the paths my voyaging thought hath tried.  
Yet, searching every way, one only cure  
I have found, and put to proof, by sending Creon,  
Menoceus' son, the brother of my queen,  
To learn within Apollo's Pythian hall  
What word or deed of mine may save this city.  
And now as I compute the time, I am pained  
To know his speed. The day for his return  
Is more than come. He should be here ere now.  
But when he shall arrive, base then were I  
To fail in aught of all the god may show.

PRIEST.

Even now these young ones tell me he draws near,  
In happy time to crown thy gracious word.

OEDIPUS.

Apollo! may his coming be as blest  
With saving fortune as his looks are bright!

PRIEST.

Sure he comes joyfully, else had he ne'er  
Worn that full garland of thick-berried bay.

OEDIPUS.

We have not long to doubt. He can hear now. —  
Son of Menoeceus, brother of my queen,  
What answer from Apollo dost thou bring?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἔσθλῆν· λέγω γὰρ καὶ τὰ δύσφορ', εἰ τύχοι [Ἰπτιοί.  
κατ' ὄρθον ἐξελθόντα, πάντ' ἂν εὐτυχεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἔστιν δὲ ποῖον τοῦπος ; οὔτε γὰρ θρασὺς  
οὔτ' οὖν προδείσας εἰμὶ τῷ γε νῦν λόγῳ. 90

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ τῶνδε χρήξεις πλησιαζόντων κλύειν,  
ἔτοιμος εἶπεῖν, εἴτε καὶ στείχειν ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἔς πάντας αὔδα. τῶνδε γὰρ πλέον φέρω  
τὸ πένθος ἢ καὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγοιμ' ἂν οἱ' ἤκουσα τοῦ θεοῦ πύρα.  
ἄνωγεν ἡμᾶς Φοῖβος ἐμφανῶς ἄναξ  
μίασμα χώρας, ὡς τεθραμμένον χθονὶ  
ἐν τῇδ' ἐλαύνειν, μηδ' ἀνήκεστον τρέφειν. 95

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποιῶ καθαρμῶ ; τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς ξυμφορᾶς ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀνδρηλατοῦντας, ἢ φόνῳ φόνου πάλιν  
λύοντας, ὡς τόδ' αἶμα χειμάζον πόλιν. 100

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποιῶ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς τήνδε μηνύει τύχην ;

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

*[Enters at the spectators' left, coming from Delphi.]*

Good : for my message is, that even our woes,  
Borne right unto their issue, shall be well.

OEDIPUS.

What saith the oracle? Thy words so far  
Hearten me not, nor hasten me to fear.

CREON.

Say, must I speak where these are standing by,  
Or go within? I am ready either way.

OEDIPUS.

Let it be heard by all. My heart is sore,  
Not for myself, but for the souls I see.

CREON.

My lips shall utter what the god hath said.  
Sovereign Apollo clearly bids us drive  
Forth of our country an accursed thing  
(For such is fostered in this land, and stains  
Our clime), and not to cherish it past cure.

OEDIPUS.

By what purgation of what dire mishap?

CREON.

By exile, or atoning blood with blood.  
This murder is the storm that shakes our state.

OEDIPUS.

Of what man doth he intimate the fall?

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἦν ἡμῖν, ὦναξ, Δαίός ποθ' ἡγεμῶν  
γῆς τῆσδε, πρὶν σὲ τήνδ' ἀπευθύνειν πόλιιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἔξοιδ' ἀκούων· οὐ γὰρ εἰσεῖδόν γέ πω. 105

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τούτου θανόντος νῦν ἐπιστέλλει σαφῶς  
τοὺς αὐτοέντας χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν τινας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἱ δ' εἰσὶ ποῦ γῆς ; ποῦ τόδ' εὐρεθήσεται  
ἵχνος παλαιᾶς δυστέκμαρτον αἰτίας ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἐν τῇδ' ἔφασκε γῆ. τὸ δὲ ζητούμενον 110  
ἄλωτόν, ἐκφεύγει δὲ τὰ μελούμενον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πότερα δ' ἐν οἴκοις, ἢ ἔν ἀγροῖς ὁ Δαίος,  
ἢ γῆς ἐπ' ἄλλης τῷδε συμπίπτει φόνω ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

θεωρός, ὡς ἔφασκεν, ἐκδημῶν, πάλιν 115  
πρὸς οἶκον οὐκέθ' ἵκεθ', ὡς ἀπεστάλη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἄγγελός τις οὐδὲ συμπράκτωρ ὁδοῦ  
κατεῖδεν, οὐ τις ἐκμαθῶν ἐχρήσατ' ἄν ;

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

My gracious lord, before thy fortunate reign,  
King Læus was the leader of our land.

OEDIPUS.

I know him by report. I never saw him.

CREON.

The god commandeth us to punish home  
The undetected authors of his death.

OEDIPUS.

But they, where are they? where shall now be seen  
The faded impress of this ancient guilt?

CREON.

He saith, 'tis in this land. And what is sought  
Is found, while things uncared for glide away.

OEDIPUS.

But where did Læus meet this violence?  
At home, abroad, or in some foreign land?

CREON.

He left us, as he said, to visit Delphi;  
But nevermore returned since he set forth.

OEDIPUS.

And was there none, no fellow-traveller,  
To see, and tell the tale, and help our search?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

θνήσκουσι γάρ, πλὴν εἷς τις, ὃς φόβῳ φυγῶν  
ὧν εἶδε πλὴν ἔν ουδὲν εἶχ' εἰδὼς φράσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὸ ποῖον ; ἐν γὰρ πόλλ' ἂν ἐξεύροι μαθεῖν, 120  
ἀρχὴν βραχείαν εἰ λάβοιμεν ἐλπίδος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ληστὰς ἔφασκε συντυχόντας οὐ μιᾷ  
ῥώμῃ κτανεῖν νιν, ἀλλὰ σὺν πλήθει χερῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς οὖν ὁ ληστής, εἴ τι μὴ ξὺν ἀργύρῳ  
ἐπράσσειτ' ἐνθένδ', ἐς τόδ' ἂν τόλμης ἔβη ; 125

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

δοκοῦντα ταῦτ' ἦν · Δαΐτου δ' ὀλωλότος  
οὐδεὶς ἀρωγὸς ἐν κακοῖς ἐγίγμετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

κακὸν δὲ ποῖον ἐμποδὼν τυραννίδος  
οὕτω πεσοῦσης εἶργε τοῦτ' ἐξειδέναι ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἢ ποικιλωδὸς Σφίγγξ τὸ πρὸς ποσὶ σκοπεῖν 130  
μεθέντας ἡμᾶς τὰφανῆ προσήγετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἐξ ὑπαρχῆς αὐθις αὐτ' ἐγὼ φανῶ.  
ἐπαξίως γὰρ Φοῖβος, ἀξίως δὲ σὺ  
πρὸς τοῦ θανόντος τήνδ' ἔθεσθ' ἐπιστροφῆν ·



KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

No, they were slain : save one, who fled in fear,  
And only had one certain thing to tell.

OEDIPUS.

What was that thing? A little door of hope  
Once opened, may discover much to view.

CREON.

A random troop of robbers, so 'twas told,  
Destroyed him, not with one, but many a hand.

OEDIPUS.

How could the robber to such boldness rise,  
Were not his crime suborned with Theban gold? brother  
to the king

CREON.

We thought of that. But Laïus being dead,  
No helper found us in our miseries.

OEDIPUS.

What misery, when majesty was fallen,  
Could hold you back from searching to the end?

CREON.

A present trouble had engrossed our care.  
The riddling Sphinx compelled us to attend  
Her song, and not to think of things unseen.

OEDIPUS.

But I will track this evil to the spring  
And force it out to light. Full worthily  
Doth great Apollo, worthily dost thou  
Direct this sudden effort for the dead.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὥστ' ἐνδίκως ὄψεσθε καὶ μέ σύμμαχον, 135  
 γῆ τῆδε τιμωροῦντα τῷ θεῷ θ' ἅμα.  
 ὑπὲρ γὰρ οὐχὶ τῶν ἀπωτέρω φίλων,  
 ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ, τοῦτ' ἀποσκεδῶ μύσος.  
 ὅστις γὰρ ἦν ἐκείνον ὁ κτανὼν τάχ' ἂν  
 καὶ μ' ἂν τοιαύτη χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν θέλοι. 140  
 κείνῳ προσαρκῶν οὖν ἐμαυτὸν ὠφελῶ.  
 ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα, παῖδες, ὑμεῖς μὲν βάθρων  
 ἴστασθε, τοῖσδ' ἄραντες ἰκτῆρας κλάδους,  
 ἄλλος δὲ Κάδμου λαὸν ὧδ' ἀθροίζετω,  
 ὡς πᾶν ἐμοῦ δράσοντος. ἧ γὰρ εὐτυχεῖς 145  
 σὺν τῷ θεῷ φανούμεθ', ἧ πεπτωκότες.

[*Exeunt* ŒDIPUS et CREON.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ὦ παῖδες, ἰστώμεσθα. τῶνδε γὰρ χάριν  
 καὶ δεῦρ' ἔβημεν ὧν ὄδ' ἐξαγγέλλεται.  
 Φοῖβος δ' ὁ πέμψας τάσδε μαντείας ἅμα  
 σωτήρ θ' ἴκοιτο καὶ νόσου παυστήριος. 150

[*Exeunt supplices.*

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. α.

ὦ Διὸς ἄδυεπὲς Φάτι, τίς ποτε τᾶς πολυχρύσου [*Introit.*  
 Πυθῶνος ἀγλαὰς ἔβας  
 Θήβας; ἐκτέταμαι, φοβερὰν φρένα δείματι πάλλων,  
 ἰήϊε Δάμνιε Παιάν,  
 ἀμφὶ σοὶ ἀζόμενος, τί μοι ἦ νέον ἦ περιτελλομέναις  
 ὦραις πάλιν 155  
 ἐξανύσεις χρέος· εἰπέ μοι, ὦ χρυσέας τέκνον' Ἐλπίδος, ἄμ-  
 βροτε Φάμα.

KING OEDIPUS.

And ye shall see me justly your ally,  
Aiding the cause of Phoebus and the land :  
For I, in scattering this offence, will serve  
No far-off friend, but mine own self no less :  
The man who murdered Laïus may choose  
To make me too the victim of his rage :  
So then, in shielding his affairs from wrong,  
I vindicate myself. Now, children, rise  
From yonder steps, and lift your suppliant boughs,  
And let some other summon hitherwards  
All Cadmus' people, and assure them, I  
Will answer every need. This day shall see us  
Blest with glad fortune through God's help, or fallen.

[OEDIPUS and CREON go within.]

PRIEST.

Rise then, my children. Even for this we came  
Which of his own accord he promiseth :  
Only may Phoebus, who hath sent this word,  
Both saving health and sure relief afford.

[PRIEST and SUPPLIANTS retire to the City.]

CHORUS.

[Enters at the spectators' right, from the City.]

I. 1.

Kind voice of heaven, soft-breathing from the height  
Of Pytho rich in gold to Thebè bright,  
What wilt thou bring to-day?  
Ah, Delian Pæan, say!  
My heart hangs on thy word with trembling awe :  
What new-given law,  
Or what returning in Time's circling round  
Wilt thou unfold? Tell us, immortal sound,  
Daughter of golden Hope, we pray, we pray!

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ἀντ. α.

πρῶτί σε κεκλόμενος, θύγατερ Διός, ἄμβροτ' Ἀθίνα,  
γαιίοχόν τ' ἀδελφεῶν 160

Ἄρτεμιν, ἃ κυκλόεντ' ἀγορᾶς θρόνον εὐκλέα θύσσει,  
καὶ Φοῖβον ἑκαβόλον, ἰώ,

τρισοῖ ἀλεξίμοροι προφάνητέ μοι, εἴ ποτε καὶ προ-  
τέρας ἄτας ὑπερ  
ὀρτυμένας πόλει ἠνύσατ' ἐκτοπίαν φλόγα πήματος, ἔλθετε  
καὶ νῦν. 165

στρ. β'.

ὦ πόποι, ἀνύριθμα γὰρ φέρω  
πήματα · νοσεῖ δέ μοι πρόπας  
στόλος, οὐδ' ἐνὶ φροντίδος ἔγχος 170

ὦ τις ἀλέξεται · οὔτε γὰρ ἔκγονα  
κλυτᾶς χθονὸς αὔξεται, οὔτε τόκοισιν  
ιῆτων καμάτων ἀνέχουσι γυναῖκες ·  
ἄλλον δ' ἂν ἄλλω προσίδοις, ἄπερ εὔπτερον ὄρνυι 175  
κρεῖσσον ἀμαιμακέτου πυρὸς ὄρμενον  
ἀκτὰν πρὸς ἐσπέρου θεοῦ ·

ἀντ. β'.

ὦν πόλις ἀνύριθμος ὄλλυται ·  
νηλέα δὲ γένεθλα πρὸς πέδω 180  
θαναταφόρα κεῖται ἀνοίκτως ·

ἐν δ' ἄλοχοι πολιαί τ' ἐπὶ ματέρες  
ἀκτὰν παρὰ βώμιον ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι 185  
λυγρῶν πόνων ἰκτῆρες ἐπιστενάχουσιν.  
παιὰν δὲ λάμπει στονόεσσή τε γῆρυς ὄμμαυλος ·  
ὦν ὑπερ, ὦ χρυσέα θύγατερ Διός,  
εὐῶπα πέμψον ἀλκάν ·

KING OEDIPUS

I. 2.

First, child of Jove, Pallas, to thee appealing,  
Then to sweet Artemis, thy sister, kneeling,  
    Who guardeth our fair land  
    With blessing from her hand,  
Throned o'er the circling mart that hears her praise,  
And thou, whose rays  
Pierce evils from afar, ho! come and save,  
Ye mighty three! if e'er before ye drave  
The threatening fires of woe from Thebè, come to-day!

II. 1.

For ah! the griefs I bear  
Are endless; all I have is out of gear,  
And not a weapon near  
To fray this hated pest from hearth or hall.  
Earth's blossoms blasted fall:  
Nor can our women rise  
From childbed after pangs and cries;  
But flocking more and more  
Unto the western shore,  
Soul after soul is seen to wing her flight,  
Swifter than quenchless flame, to the far realm of Night.

II. 2.

So countless deaths abound.  
My city's sons unpitied lie around  
O'er this plague-cumbered ground.  
And wives, and matrons old, on every hand,  
Along the altar-strand,  
Groaning in saddest grief,  
Pour supplication for relief.  
Loud hymns are sounding clear;  
And loud lament, as near.  
Then, golden daughter of the heavenly sire,  
Send fair-eyed succour to subdue this fire.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

στρ. γ΄.

Ἄρεά τε τὸν μαλερόν, ὃς νῦν ἄχαλκος ἀσπίδων 190  
 φλέγει με περιβόατος ἀντιάζων,  
 παλίσσυτον δράμημα νωτίσαι πάτρας  
 ἄπουρον, εἴτ' ἐς μέγαν θάλαμον Ἀμφιτρίτας, 195  
 εἴτ' ἐς τὸν ἀπόξενον ὄρμον Θρήκιον κλύδωνα·  
 τέλει γὰρ εἴ τι νύξ ἀφῆ, τοῦτ' ἐπ' ἡμᾶρ ἔρχεται·  
 τόν, ὃ τᾶν πυρφόρων ἀστραπᾶν κράτη νέμων, 200  
 ὃ Ζεῦ πάτερ, ὑπὸ σῶ φθίσον κεραυνῶ.

ἀντ. γ΄.

Λύκει' ἄναξ, τά τε σὰ χρυσοστρόφων ἀπ' ἀγκυλᾶν  
 βέλεα θέλοιμ' ἂν ἀδάματ' ἐνδατεῖσθαι 205  
 ἀρωγὰ προσταχθέντα, τάς τε πυρφόρους  
 Ἄρτέμιδος αἰγλας, ξὺν αἰς Λύκι' ὄρη διάσσει· [Introitū ED.  
 τὸν χρυσομίτραν τε κικλήσκω τᾶσδ' ἐπώνυμον γᾶς, 210  
 οἰνώπα Βάκχον εὖιον, Μαινώδων ὁμόστολον  
 πελασθῆναι φλέγοντ' ἀγλαῶπι σύμμαχον  
 πεύκα ἔπι τὸν ἀπότιμον ἐν θεοῖς θεόν. 215

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

αἰτεῖς· ἂ δ' αἰτεῖς, τᾶμ' ἐὰν θέλῃς ἔπη  
 κλύων δέχεσθαι τῇ νόσφ' ἢ ὑπηρετεῖν,  
 ἀλκὴν λάβοις ἂν κἀνακούφισιν κακῶν·  
 ἀγῶ ξένος μὲν τοῦ λόγου τοῦδ' ἔξερω,  
 ξένος δὲ τοῦ πραχθέντος. οὐ γὰρ ἂν μακρὰν 220  
 ἔχνεον αὐτός, οὐκ ἔχων τι σύμβολον.  
 νῦν δ', ὕστερος γὰρ ἀστὸς εἰς ἀστοὺς τελῶ,  
 ὑμῖν προφωνῶ πᾶσι Καδμείοις τάδε·  
 ὅστις ποθ' ὑμῶν Δαίιον τὸν Λαβδάκου

KING OEDIPUS.

III. 1.

And swiftly speed afar,  
Windborne on backward car,  
This shieldless War-god with loud onset sweeping.  
To oarless Thracian tide,  
Or ocean chambers wide,  
Where Amphitritè lone her couch is keeping.  
Day ruins what night spares ; O thou whose hand  
Wields lightning, blast him with thy thundering brand.

III. 2.

Shower from the golden string  
Thine arrows, Lycian King !  
O Phoebè, let thy fiery lances fly  
Resistless, as they rove [OEDIPUS enters.  
Through Xanthus' mountain grove !  
O Theban Bacchus of the lustrous eye,  
With crown and torch and wavering Maenad throng  
Blaze on the god disowned the gods among.

OEDIPUS.

Yea, ye shall find, according to your prayer,  
Help and relief, if ye will heed my voice,  
And answer the requirement of the plague.  
Receive the word I give you, though a stranger  
Both to the story and the deed. Not far  
Could I have traced it, having naught by me  
Pertaining to the matter. But to-day,  
A citizen, though last upon the roll,  
To all of you Cadmeians I speak this :  
Whoe'er among you knows the murderer

κάτοιδεν ἀνδρὸς ἐκ τίνος διώλετο, 225  
 τοῦτον κελεύω πάντα σημαίνειν ἐμοί·  
 κεῖ μὲν φοβεῖται, τοῦτίκλημ' ὑπεξελών  
 αὐτὸς καθ' αὐτοῦ. πείσεται γὰρ ἄλλο μὲν  
 ἄστεργές οὐδέν, γῆς δ' ἄπεισιν ἀσφαλῆς·  
 εἰ δ' αὖ τις ἄλλον οἶδεν ἔξ ἄλλης χθονὸς 230  
 τὸν αὐτόχειρα, μὴ σιωπάτω· τὸ γὰρ  
 κέρδος τελῶ γῶ χῆ χάρις προσκείσεται.  
 εἰ δ' αὖ σιωπήσεσθε, καί τις ἢ φίλου  
 δείσας ἀπώσει τοῦπος ἢ χαυτοῦ τόδε,  
 ἅκ τῶνδε δράσω, ταῦτα χρῆ κλύειν ἐμοῦ. 235  
 τὸν ἄνδρ' ἀπαυδῶ τοῦτον, ὅστις ἐστί, γῆς  
 τῆσδ', ἧς ἐγὼ κράτη τε καὶ θρόνους νέμω,  
 μήτ' ἐσδέχεσθαι μήτε προσφωνεῖν τινα,  
 μήτ' ἐν θεῶν εὐχαῖσι μήτε θύμασιν  
 κοινὸν ποιεῖσθαι, μήτε χέρνιβος νέμειν· 240  
 ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων πάντας, ὡς μιάσματος  
 τοῦδ' ἡμῖν ὄντος, ὡς τὸ Πυθικὸν θεοῦ  
 μαντεῖον ἐξέφηεν ἀρτίως ἐμοί.  
 ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν τοιόσδε τῷ τε δαίμονι  
 τῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ θανόντι σύμμαχος πέλω· 245  
 κατεύχομαι δὲ τὸν δεδρακότ', εἴτε τις  
 εἰς ὧν λέληθεν εἴτε πλειόνων μέτα,  
 κακὸν κακῶς νιν ἄμορον ἐκτρῦψαι βίον.  
 ἐπέυχομαι δ', οἴκοισιν εἰ ξυνέστιος  
 ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ συνειδότος, 250  
 παθεῖν ἄπερ τοῖσδ' ἀρτίως ἠρασάμην.  
 ὑμῖν δὲ ταῦτα πάντ' ἐπισκῆπτω τελείν,



KING OEDIPUS.

Of Latus the son of Labdacus,  
I bid him show the thing in full to me.  
Himself, if he have any fear, withdrawing  
The guilt on his own head; — he shall be vexed  
No further, but go safely from the land.  
Or if another from a foreign soil  
Be known by any to have done this wrong,  
Let him break silence. He shall have from me  
Reward and lasting gratitude beside.  
But if ye keep it close, and one refuse  
To utter this, as fearing for a friend  
Or for himself, then hear my final word.  
I now forbid that man, whoe'er he be,  
Throughout this land where I hold power and sway,  
To be received or spoken with, or share  
In vow or sacrifice or lustral rite:  
But all shall drive him from their doors, for he  
Is our pollution, as the Pythian shrine  
Oracular hath late to me revealed.  
So firm is mine alliance to the God  
And your dead sovereign in this holy war.  
Now on the murderer, whether he lurk  
In lonely guilt, or have accomplices,  
I syllable this curse: Let his crushed life  
Wither forlorn in hopeless misery.  
And, I pray heaven, should he or they be housed  
With mine own knowledge in my home, that I  
May suffer what I imprecate on them.  
On all of you I lay this charge, to give

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὑπέρ τ' ἔμαυτοῦ, τοῦ θεοῦ τε, τῆσδ' ἐ τε  
 γῆς ᾧδ' ἀκάρπως καθέως ἐφθαρμένης.  
 οὐδ' εἰ γὰρ ἦν τὸ πρᾶγμα μὴ θεήλατον, 265  
 ἀκάθαρτον ὑμᾶς εἰκὸς ἦν οὕτως εἶναι,  
 ἀνδρός γ' ἀρίστου βασιλέως τ' ὀλωλότος,  
 ἀλλ' ἐξερευνᾶν· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ κυρῶ γ' ἐγὼ  
 ἔχων μὲν ἀρχάς, ἃς ἐκεῖνος εἶχε πρὶν,  
 ἔχων δὲ λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖχ' ὁμόσπορον, 260  
 κοινῶν τε παίδων κοῖν' ἄν, εἰ κείνῳ γένος  
 μὴ ἔδυστύχησεν, ἦν ἂν ἐκπεφυκότα,  
 νῦν δ' ἐς τὸ κείνου κρατ' ἐνήλαθ' ἡ τύχη·  
 ἀνθ' ὧν ἐγὼ τάδ', ὡσπερὶ τοῦμ' πατρός,  
 ὑπερμαχοῦμαι κάπ'ι πάντ' ἀφίξομαι, 265  
 ζητῶν τὸν αὐτόχειρα τοῦ φόνου λαβεῖν  
 τῷ Λαβδακείῳ παιδὶ Πολυδώρου τε καὶ  
 τοῦ πρόσθε Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι τ' Ἀγήνορος·  
 καὶ ταῦτα τοῖς μὴ δρῶσιν εὐχομαι βεοὺς  
 μήτ' ἄροτον αὐτοῖς γῆς ἀνιέναι τινα 270  
 μήτ' οὖν γυναικῶν παῖδας, ἀλλὰ τῷ πότμῳ  
 τῷ νῦν φθερεῖσθαι κάπ'ι τοῦδ' ἐχθίονι·  
 ὑμῖν δὲ τοῖς ἄλλοισι Καδμείοις, ὅσοις  
 τάδ' ἔστ' ἀρέσκουθ', ἧ τε σύμμαχος Δίκη  
 χοὶ πάντες εὖ ξυνεῖεν εἰσαεὶ θεοί. 275

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὡσπερ μ' ἀραῖον ἔλαβες, ᾧδ', ἀναξ, ἐρῶ.  
 οὐτ' ἔκτανον γὰρ οὔτε τὸν κτανόντ' ἔχω  
 δεῖξαι. τὸ δὲ ζήτημα τοῦ πέμψαντος ἦν  
 Φοίβου τόδ' εἰπεῖν, ὅστις εἴργασται ποτε.

## KING OEDIPUS.

Free course unto my words, for my behoof  
And for the god, and for our land, that lies  
A fruitless wilderness unblest of Heaven.  
Sure, had this business not been thus enjoined  
By oracle divine, it were not meet  
Ye left pollution thus uncleansed, when one,  
Your noblest and your sovereign, had been slain.  
Even then you should have tracked it out. And now,  
Since I am vested with his power, and share  
His rights in the embraces of the queen,  
And we had owned beside the further tie  
Of common issue, had his seed been blest —  
But Heaven was envious to him and his —  
I, as contending for my own true sire,  
Will do mine utmost, leaving nought untried,  
To bring to light the author of the death  
Of Larus the son of Labdacus,  
Of Polydorus, and of Cadmus old,  
And wise Agenor of the eldest time.  
Lastly, to all who disobey in this,  
May Heaven refuse the produce of the ground  
And offspring from their wives, and may they pine  
In such a plague as this, or yet more hateful.  
But for the rest of you Cadmeian men,  
Who love mine ordinance, may righteousness,  
Strong to defend, and all the gods for aye  
Watch over you for blessing in your land.

## CHORUS.

Under the shadow of thy curse, my lord,  
I will speak. I slew him not, nor can I show  
The slayer. Phoebus, who hath given the word,  
Should name the guilty.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

δίκαι' ἔλεξας· ἀλλ' ἀναγκάσαι θεοὺς  
ἂν μὴ θέλωσιν οὐδ' ἂν εἰς δύναϊτ' ἀνήρ. 280

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὰ δεύτερ' ἐκ τῶνδ' ἂν λέγοιμ' ἄμοι δοκεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

εἰ καὶ τρίτ' ἔστι, μὴ παρῆς τὸ μὴ οὐ φράσαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄνακτ' ἄνακτι ταῦθ' ὀρώντ' ἐπίσταμαι  
μύλιστα Φοίβῳ Τειρεσίαν, παρ' οὗ τις ἂν  
σκοπῶν τάδ', ὦναξ, ἐκμάθοι σαφέστατα. 285

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν ἀργοῖς οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἐπραξάμην.  
ἔπεμψα γὰρ Κρέοντος εἰπόντος διπλοῦς  
πομπούς· πάλαι δὲ μὴ παρὼν θαυμάζεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν τά γ' ἄλλα κωφὰ καὶ παλαί' ἔπη. 290

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα ; πάντα γὰρ σκοπῶ λόγον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

θανεῖν ἐλέχθη πρὸς τινῶν ὁδοιπόρων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἤκουσα καὶ γῶ· τὸν δ' ἰδόντ' οὐδεὶς ὀρᾷ.

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Thy demand is just,  
But man may not compel the sons of Heaven.

CHORUS.

I see a second course, and would suggest it.

OEDIPUS.

Were it a third, stint not to speak it forth.

CHORUS.

I know of one alone, who, being a king,  
Sees with King Phoebus eye to eye, Teirésias.  
From him, my lord, we might have certain rede.

OEDIPUS.

That doth not count amongst my deeds undone.  
By Creon's counsel I have sent twice o'er  
To fetch him, and I muse at his delay.

CHORUS.

The rumour that remains is old and dim.

OEDIPUS.

What rumour? Let no tale be left unheard.

CHORUS.

'Twas said he perished by some wandering band.

OEDIPUS.

But the one witness is removed from ken.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' εἴ τι μὲν δὴ δειμάτων ἔχει μέρος,  
 τὰς σὰς ἀκούων οὐ μενεῖ τοιάσδ' ἄρας. 295

ΟΙΑΠΠΟΣ.

ῶ μή' στι δρῶντι τάρβος, οὐδ' ἔπος φοβεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐξελέγχων αὐτὸν ἔστιν· οἶδε γὰρ  
 τὸν θεῖον ἤδη μάντιν ὧδ' ἄγουσιν, ῶ  
 τὰληθὲς ἐμπέφυκεν ἀνθρώπων μόνω.

ΟΙΑΠΠΟΣ.

ὦ πάντα νωμῶν Τειρεσία, διδακτά τε 300  
 ἄρρητά τ', οὐράνιά τε καὶ χθονοστιβῆ, [Introit TIRESIAS.  
 πόλιν μὲν, εἰ καὶ μὴ βλέπεις, φρονεῖς δ' ὄμως  
 οἴα νόσφ' σύνεστιν· ἧς σὲ προστάτην  
 σωτήρᾳ τ', ὠναξ, μόνον ἐξευρίσκομεν.  
 Φοῖβος γάρ, εἰ καὶ μὴ κλύεις τῶν ἀγγέλων, 305  
 πέμψασιν ἡμῖν ἀντέπεμψεν, ἔκλυσιν  
 μόνην ἂν ἐλθεῖν τοῦδε τοῦ νοσήματος,  
 εἰ τοὺς κτανόντας Λαίου μαθόντες εὖ  
 κτείναιμεν, ἢ γῆς φυγάδας ἐκπεμψαίμεθα.  
 σὺ δ' οὖν φθονήσας μήτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν φάτιν 310  
 μήτ' εἴ τιν' ἄλλην μαντικῆς ἔχεις ὀδόν,  
 ῥῦσαι σεαυτὸν καὶ πόλιν, ῥῦσαι δ' ἐμέ,  
 ῥῦσαι δὲ πᾶν μίασμα τοῦ τεθηηκότος.  
 ἐν σοὶ γὰρ ἐσμέν· ἄνδρα δ' ὠφελεῖν ἀφ' ὧν  
 ἔχοι τε καὶ δύναιτο κάλλιστος πόνων. 315

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

Well, if the guilty have a taste of fear,  
He will not stay when he hath heard thy curse.

OEDIPUS.

Words will not frighten one who dares to do.

CHORUS.

Yet lives there, who hath power to convict him:  
For hither, lo! they lead the holy seer,  
Whose bosom is of truth the only home.

[TEIRESIAS enters at the right, from the City.]

OEDIPUS.

O thou whose universal thought controls  
All knowledge and all mystery, in heaven  
And on the earth beneath, thy mind perceives;  
Teirésias, though thine outward eye be dark,  
The plague that holds our city, whose one guide  
And saviour we can find in thee, O king.  
Phoebus (although the messengers perchance  
Have told thee this), upon our sending, sent  
This answer back, that no release should come  
From this disaster, till we sought and found  
And slew the murderers of King Latus,  
Or drove them exiles from our land. Thou, then,  
Withhold not any word of augury  
Or other divination which thou knowest,  
But rescue Thebè, and thyself, and me,  
And purge this dire pollution of the dead.  
We cast ourselves on thee: and beautiful  
It is to use the power one hath for good.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

φεῦ φεῦ, φρονεῖν ὡς δεινὸν ἔνθα μὴ τέλη  
λύη φρονούντι. ταῦτα γὰρ καλῶς ἐγὼ  
εἰδὼς διώλεσ'· οὐ γὰρ ἂν δεῦρ' ἰκόμην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί δ' ἔστιν ; ὡς ἄθυμος εἰσελήλυθας.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἄφες μ' ἐς οἴκους· ῥᾶστα γὰρ τὸ σὸν τε σὺ 320  
κἀγὼ διοίσω τοῦμόν, ἣν ἐμοὶ πίθη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐτ' ἔννομ' εἶπας οὔτε προσφιλή πόλει  
τῆδ', ἣ σ' ἔθρεψε, τήνδ' ἀποστερῶν φάτιν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ὀρᾶ γὰρ οὐδὲ σοὶ τὸ σὸν φώνημ' ἴον  
πρὸς καιρόν· ὡς οὖν μηδ' ἐγὼ ταῦτὸν πάθω — 325

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν φρονῶν γ' ἀποστραφῆς, ἐπεὶ  
πάντες σε προσκυνούμεν οἷδ' ἰκτήριοι.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πάντες γὰρ οὐ φρονεῖτ'. ἐγὼ δ' οὐ μὴ ποτε  
τᾶμ' ὡς ἂν εἶπω μὴ τὰ σ' ἐκφήνω κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί φῆς ; ξυνειδὼς οὐ φράσεις, ἀλλ' ἔννοεῖς 320  
ἡμᾶς προδοῦναι καὶ καταφθεῖραι πόλιν ;



KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.

Ah! terrible is knowledge to the man  
Whom knowledge profits not. This well I knew,  
But had forgotten. Else had I ne'er come hither.

OEDIPUS.

Why dost thou come so gloomily to-day?

TEIRESIAS.

Let me go home. Thy part and mine will best  
Be carried, if thou wilt obey this word.

OEDIPUS.

Rebellious and ungrateful! to deprive  
The State that reared thee of thine utterance now.

TEIRESIAS.

Thy speech, I see, is crossing thine intent;  
And I would screen me from the like mishap.

OEDIPUS.

Nay, if thou knowest, turn thee not away:  
Lo, all these suppliants are entreating thee.

TEIRESIAS.

Yea, for ye all are blind. Never will I  
Utter the sound that will reveal thine evil.

OEDIPUS.

What, art thou privy to the business then,  
And wilt not tell, but hast a mind to be  
Our traitor, and destroyer of the State?

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἐγὼ οὐτ' ἔμαυτὸν οὐτε σ' ἀλγυνῶ. τί ταῦτ'  
ἄλλως ἐλέγχεις ; οὐ γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκ, ὦ κακῶν κάκιστε, καὶ γὰρ ἂν πέτρου  
φύσω σύ γ' ὀργάνειας, ἐξερεῖς ποτε,  
ἀλλ' ὦδ' ἄτεγκτος κἀτελεύτητος φανεῖ ;

335

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ὀργὴν ἐμέμφω τὴν ἐμήν, τὴν σὴν δ' ὁμοῦ  
ναίουσαν οὐ κατείδες, ἀλλ' ἐμὲ ψέγεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τίς γὰρ τοιαῦτ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ὀργίζοιτ' ἔπη  
κλίων, ἂ νῦν σὺ τήνδ' ἀτιμάζεις πόλιν ;

340

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἤξει γὰρ αὐτά, κἂν ἐγὼ σιγῇ στέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκοῦν ἂ γ' ἤξει καὶ σὲ χρὴ λέγειν ἐμοί.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πέρα φράσαιμι. πρὸς τὰδ', εἰ θέλεις,  
θυμοῦ δι' ὀργῆς ἦτις ἀγριωτάτη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ μὴν παρήσω γ' οὐδέν, ὡς ὀργῆς ἔχω,  
ἅπερ ξυνίημ'. ἴσθι γὰρ δοκῶν ἐμοὶ  
καὶ ξυμφυτεῦσαι τοῦργον, εἰργάσθαι θ', ὅσον  
μὴ χερσὶ καίνων· εἰ δ' ἐτύγχανες βλέπων,  
καὶ τοῦργον ἂν σοῦ τοῦτ' ἔφην εἶναι μόνου.

345

KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.

You press me to no purpose. I'll not pain  
Myself or thee. You will get nothing from me.

OEDIPUS.

O miscreant! what? Why, you would rouse, I ween,  
The passion of anger in a stone; wilt ne'er  
Give utterance, but in thy temper prove  
Still thus unsoftened and impracticable?

TEIRESIAS.

My temper is your theme. Your own must dwell  
Unnoticed in your bosom. Me you blame?

OEDIPUS.

Who could keep temper at such words as thou  
Hast used to scorn this city?

TEIRESIAS.

It will come:  
Although I bury it in silence here.

OEDIPUS.

Must not the king be told of what will come?

TEIRESIAS.

No more from me. At this, and if thou wilt,  
Rage to the height of passionate vehemence.

OEDIPUS.

Ay, and my passion shall not spare to say  
All that I now perceive. I see in thee  
The abettor of the plot, and of the deed,  
All but the handiwork. If thou hadst eyes,  
Sole murderer had I declared thee too.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἄληθες ; ἐννέπω δὲ τῷ κηρύγματι 350  
ᾧπερ προεῖπας ἐμμένειν, καὶ ἡμέρας  
τῆς νῦν προσαιδᾶν μήτε τούσδε μήτ' ἐμέ,  
ὡς ὄντι γῆς τῆσδ' ἀνοσίῳ μιάστορι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὕτως ἀναιδῶς ἐξεκίνησας τόδε 355  
τὸ ῥῆμα ; καὶ ποῦ τοῦτο φεύξεσθαι δοκεῖς ;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πέφευγα · τάληθές γὰρ ἰσχύου τρέφω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πρὸς τοῦ διδαχθεῖς ; οὐ γὰρ ἔκ γε τῆς τέχνης.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πρὸς σοῦ · σὺ γάρ μ' ἄκουτα προὔτρέψω λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποῖον λόγον ; λέγ' αὖθις, ὡς μάλλον μάθω.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐχὶ ξυνήκας πρόσθεν ; ἢ ἔκπειρά λόγῳ ; 360

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν γνωστόν · ἀλλ' αὖθις φράσου.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

φονέα σέ φημι τάνδρὸς οὗ ζητεῖς κυρεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐ τι χαίρων δῖς γε πημονὰς ἐρεῖς.

KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.

Is't possible? I charge thee to abide  
By that thou hast proclaimed; and from this hour  
Speak not to any Theban or to me.  
Thou art the foul polluter of the land.

OEDIPUS.

O shameless front! How canst thou move thy tongue  
To such a tone, and think to 'scape for this?

TEIRESIAS.

The might of truth is scathless. I am free.

OEDIPUS.

Whence came the truth thou spak'st? Not from thine art.

TEIRESIAS.

From thee. Thou urged'st mine unwilling tongue.

OEDIPUS.

Say it again, that I may know the drift.

TEIRESIAS.

Was it so dark? Or dost thou tempt my voice?

OEDIPUS.

I cannot say 'twas clear. Speak it again.

TEIRESIAS.

I say thou art the regicide thou seekest.

OEDIPUS.

Again the word of pain! But thou shalt rue.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἶπω τι δῆτα κάλλ', ἵν' ὀργίζῃ πλέον ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὅσον γε χηρῆεις· ὡς μάτην εἰρήσεται.

365

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

λεληθέναι σέ φημι σὺν τοῖς φιλτάτοις  
αἴσχισθ' ὀμιλοῦντ', οὐδ' ὀράν ἵν' εἶ κακοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ καὶ γεγηθῶς ταῦτ' αἰεὶ λέξεν δοκεῖς ;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἴπερ τί γ' ἔστι τῆς ἀληθείας σθένος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἔστι, πλὴν σοί· σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔστ', ἐπεὶ 370  
τυφλὸς τά τ' ὦτα τόν τε νοῦν τά τ' ὄμματ' εἶ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

σὺ δ' ἄθλιός γε ταῦτ' ὄνειδίζων, ἃ σοὶ  
οὐδεὶς ὃς οὐχὶ τῶνδ' ὄνειδιεῖ τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μιᾶς τρέφει πρὸς νυκτός, ὥστε μῆτ' ἐμὲ  
μῆτ' ἄλλον, ὅστις φῶς ὀρά, βλάψαι ποτ' ἄν.

375

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐ γάρ σε μοῖρα πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεσεῖν, ἐπεὶ  
ἱκανὸς Ἀπόλλων, ᾧ τὰδ' ἐκπρᾶξαι μέλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

Κρέοντος, ἧ σοῦ ταῦτα ἀξευρήματα ;

KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.

Shall I speak something more, to feed thy wrath?

OEDIPUS.

All is but idleness. Say what thou wilt,

TEIRESIAS.

I tell thee thou art living unawares  
In shameful commerce with thy nearest blood,  
Not seeing the abyss wherein thou liest.

OEDIPUS.

Think you to triumph in offending still?

TEIRESIAS.

Yes, if the might of truth be anything.

OEDIPUS.

It is, for other men, but not for thee,  
Blind as thou art in eye and ear and mind.

TEIRESIAS.

O miserable reproach, which all who now  
Behold thee, soon shall thunder forth on thee!

OEDIPUS.

Nursed in unbroken night, thou canst not harm  
Or me, or any man who seeth the day.

TEIRESIAS.

No, not from me proceeds thy fall; the god,  
Who cares for this, is able to perform it.

OEDIPUS.

Came this device from Creon or thyself? -

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

Κρέων δέ σοι πῆμ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς σὺ σοί.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ πλοῦτε καὶ τυραννὶ καὶ τέχνη τέχνης 380  
 ὑπερφέρουσα τῷ πολυζήλω βίῳ,  
 ὅσος παρ' ὑμῖν ὁ φθόνος φυλάσσεται,  
 εἰ τῆσδέ γ' ἀρχῆς οὔνεχ', ἦν ἔμοι πόλις  
 δωρητόν, οὐκ αἰτητόν, εἰσεχειρίσειν,  
 ταύτης Κρέων ὁ πιστός, οὔξ ἀρχῆς φίλος, 385  
 λάθρα μ' ὑπελθὼν ἐκβαλεῖν ἰμείρεται,  
 ὑφεῖς μάγον τοιόνδε μηχανορράφον,  
 δόλιον ἀγύρτην, ὅστις ἐν τοῖς κέρδεσιν  
 μόνου δέδορκε, τὴν τέχνην δ' ἔφυ τυφλός.  
 ἐπεὶ, φέρ' εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἶ σαφής ; 390  
 πῶς οὐχ, ὅθ' ἡ ῥαψωδὸς ἐνθάδ' ἦν κύων,  
 ἠῦδα τι τοῖσδ' ἀστοῖσιν ἐκλυτήριον ;  
 καίτοι τό γ' αἶνιγμ' οὐχὶ τοῦπιόντος ἦν  
 ἀνδρὸς διειπεῖν, ἀλλὰ μαντείας ἔδει ·  
 ἦν οὔτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν σὺ προυφάνης ἔχων 395  
 οὔτ' ἐκ θεῶν του γνωτόν · ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μολῶν,  
 ὁ μηδὲν εἰδὼς Οἰδίπους, ἔπαυσά νιν,  
 γνώμη κυρήσας οὐδ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν μαθῶν ·  
 ὃν δὴ σὺ πειρᾶς ἐκβαλεῖν, δοκῶν θρόνοις  
 παραστατήσειν τοῖς Κρεοντείοις πέλας. 400  
 κλαίων δοκεῖς μοι καὶ σὺ χῶ συνθεῖς τάδε  
 ἀγηλατήσειν · εἰ δὲ μὴ ἴδοκεῖς γέρων  
 εἶναι, παθὼν ἔγνωσ' ἂν οἶά περ φρονεῖς.



KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.

Not Creon, thou thyself art thine own bane!

OEDIPUS.

O wealth and sovereign power and skill o'er skill  
Proudly prevailing in an envied life,  
What boundless jealousies environ you!  
If, for this rule, which to my hand the State  
Committed unsolicited and free,  
Creon, my first of friends, trusted and sure,  
Would undermine and hurl me from my throne,  
Insinuating such a mendicant  
Patcher of wiles, this crafty wizard rogue,  
Blind in his art, and seeing but for gain.  
Tell me, when was thy divination sure?  
How came it, when the minstrel hound was here,  
This town had no deliverance through thy word?  
Her riddle was not for the passer by  
To solve, but needed the diviner's skill;  
No sign whereof was manifest in thee  
By augury or inspiration given.  
But it was left for a chance visitant,  
The simple Oedipus, to end her lay:  
Me, who had no intelligence from birds,  
But hit upon the secret through my wit;  
Whom now you study to supplant, and think  
To stand as a supporter of the throne  
Of lordly Creon:—To your sorrow both  
Thou and the hatcher of this scheme will drive  
Pollution forth. Nought but the name of age  
Protects thee now from tasting of thy fault.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμῖν μὲν εἰκάξουσι καὶ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη  
 ὀργῇ λελέχθαι καὶ τὰ σ', Οἰδίπου, δοκεῖ. 485  
 δεῖ δ' οὐ τοιούτων, ἀλλ' ὅπως τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ  
 μαντεῖ' ἄριστα λύσομεν, τόδε σκοπεῖν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἰ καὶ τυραννεῖς, ἐξισωτέον τὸ γούν  
 ἴσ' ἀντιλέξαι· τοῦδε γὰρ κἀγὼ κρατῶ.  
 οὐ γάρ τι σοὶ ζῶ δούλος, ἀλλὰ Λοξία· 410  
 ὥστ' οὐ Κρέοντος προστάτου γεγράψομαι.  
 λέγω δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ τυφλόν μ' ὠνείδισας,  
 σὺ καὶ δέδορκας κοῦ βλέπεις ἴν' εἶ κακοῦ,  
 οὐδ' ἔνθα ναίεις, οὐδ' ὅτων οἰκεῖς μέτα,  
 — ἄρ' οἴσθ' ἀφ' ὧν εἶ ; — καὶ λείληθας ἐχθρὸς ὧν 415  
 τοῖς σοῖσιν αὐτοῦ νίρθε κἀπὶ γῆς ἄνω,  
 καὶ σ' ἀμφιπλήξῃ μητρός τε καὶ τοῦ σοῦ πατρὸς  
 ἐλᾶ ποτ' ἐκ γῆς τῆσδε δεινόπους ἀρά,  
 βλέποντα νῦν μὲν ὄρθ', ἔπειτα δὲ σκότον.  
 βοῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς ποῖος οὐκ ἔσται λιμήν,  
 420 ποῖος Κιθαιρῶν οὐχὶ σύμφωνος τάχα,  
 ὅταν καταίσθῃ τὸν ὑμέναιον, ὃν δόμοις  
 ἄνορμον εἰσέπλευσας, εὐπλοίας τυχῶν ;  
 ἄλλων δὲ πλῆθος οὐκ ἐπαισθάνει κακῶν,  
 425 ἃ σ' ἐξισώσει σοί τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς τέκνοις.  
 πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοῦμόν στομά  
 προπηλάκιζε. σοῦ γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν βροτῶν  
 κάκιον ὅστις ἐκτριβήσεταιί ποτε.

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

As far as we may guess, the prophet's words  
And thine, O Oedipus, are spoken in wrath.  
That is not what we need, but to discern  
How best to solve the heavenly oracle.

TEIRESIAS.

Though thou art sovereign here, the right of speech  
Is my prerogative no less. Not thee  
I serve, but Loxias. He protects my life.  
No need of Creon's arm to shelter me!  
Now, then: my blindness is thy theme: — thou hast  
Thine eyes, and seest not where thou art in ill,  
What halls thou dost inhabit, or with whom.  
Knowest not from whence thou art. Nay, to thy kin,  
Buried in death and on the earth above,  
Unwittingly art a most grievous foe.  
And when thy father's and thy mother's curse  
With fearful tread shall drive thee from this land,  
On both sides lashing thee, thine eye so clear  
Seeing but darkness in that day, — oh, then,  
What harbourage will not receive thy cry,  
What echo of Cithaeron will be mute,  
When thou perceiv'st, what bride-song in thy hall  
Wafted thy gallant bark with flattering gale  
To anchor, — where? And other store of ill  
Thou seest not, that shall equal thine estate  
To thy true fortune and thy children's blood.  
Then carp at noble Creon, and revile  
My sacred utterance. No life on earth  
More miserably shall be effaced, than thine.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἢ ταῦτα δῆτ' ἀνεκτὰ πρὸς τούτου κλύειν ;  
οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον ; οὐχὶ θάσσον ; οὐ πάλιν  
ἄψορρος οἴκων τῶνδ' ἀποστραφεῖς ἄπει ;

430

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐδ' ἰκόμην ἔγωγ' ἄν, εἰ σὺ μὴ κάλεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐ γάρ τί σ' ἤδη μῶρα φωνήσουτ', ἐπεὶ  
σχολῇ σ' ἄν οἴκους τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐστειλάμην.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἡμεῖς τοιοῖδ' ἔφυμεν, ὡς μὲν σοὶ δοκεῖ,  
μῶροι, γονεῦσι δ', οἳ σ' ἔφυσαν, ἔμφρονες.

435

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποίοισι ; μείνου. τίς δέ μ' ἐκφύει βροτῶν ;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἦδ' ἡμέρα φύσει σε καὶ διαφθερεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὡς πάντ' ἄγαν αἰνικτὰ κάσαφῆ λέγεις.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐκουν σὺ ταῦτ' ἄριστος εὐρίσκειν ἔφυσ ;

440

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τοιαῦτ' ὄνειδιζ', οἷς ἔμ' εὐρήσεις μέγαν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

αὕτη γε μέντοι σ' ἢ τύχη διώλεσεν.

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Can I endure such words from him? Begone  
Off to thy ruin and with speed! Away,  
And take thy presence from our palace-halls.

TEIRESIAS.

Had you not sent for me, I ne'er had come.

OEDIPUS.

I knew not you would utter foolishness,  
Else had I never brought you to my door.

TEIRESIAS.

To thee I am foolish, then; but to thy parents,  
That gave thee life, I was wise.

OEDIPUS.

Hold, go not! who?  
Who gave me being?

TEIRESIAS.

Thou shalt find this day  
Thine origin and end.

OEDIPUS.

Why wilt thou still  
Speak all in riddles and dark sentences?

TEIRESIAS.

Methought thou wast the man to find them out.

OEDIPUS.

Ay, taunt me with the gift that makes me great!

TEIRESIAS.

And yet this luck hath been thine overthrow.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰ πόλιν τήνδ' ἐξέσωσ', οὐ μοι μέλει.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἄπειμι τοίνυν· καὶ σύ, παῖ, κόμιζέ με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

κομιζέτω δῆθ' ὥς παρὼν σύ γ' ἐμποδὼν 445  
ὀχλείς, συθείς τ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ἀλγύναις πλέον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἰπὼν ἄπειμ' ὧν οὐνεκ' ἤλθον, οὐ τὸ σὸν  
δείσας πρόσωπον· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπου μ' ὀλείς.  
λέγω δέ σοι, τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον, ὃν πάλαι  
ζητεῖς ἀπειλῶν κἀνακηρύσσω φόνον 450

τὸν Λαίειον, οὗτός ἐστιν ἐνθάδε,  
ξένος λόγῳ μέτοικος, εἶτα δ' ἐγγενῆς  
φανήσεται Θηβαῖος, οὐδ' ἡσθήσεται  
τῇ ξυμφορᾷ· τυφλὸς γὰρ ἐκ δεδορκότος  
καὶ πτωχὸς ἀντὶ πλουσίου ξένην ἐπί 455

σκήπτρῳ προδεικνύς γαίαν ἐμπορεύσεται.  
φανήσεται δὲ παισὶ τοῖς αὐτοῦ ξυνὼν  
ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς καὶ πατήρ, κάξ ἧς ἔφν  
γυναικὸς υἱὸς καὶ πόσις, καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς  
ὁμόσπορός τε καὶ φονεύς. καὶ ταῦτ' ἰὼν 460  
εἴσω λογιζοῦ· κἂν λάβῃς ἐψευσμένον,  
φάσκειν ἔμ' ἤδη μαντικῇ μηδὲν φρονεῖν. [Exeunt.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. 4.

τίς ὄντιν' ἄθεσπιέπεια Δελφὶς εἶπε πέτρα  
ἄρρητ' ἄρρητων τελέσαντα φοινίαισι χερσίν ; 465

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

I care not, if I have preserved this city.

TEIRESIAS.

Then I will go. Come, boy, and guide me forth.

OEDIPUS.

Let him. For standing here you vex our eye,  
But being gone, our trouble goes with you.

TEIRESIAS.

Ere I depart, I will declare the word  
For which I came, not daunted by thy frown.  
Thou hast no power to ruin me. 'Tis this.  
The man you seek so earnestly, with threats  
And proclamation loud of Laïus' blood,  
Is here, a sojourner supposed from far,  
But time shall prove him to the light of day  
A true-born Theban: nor will such event  
Bring him great joy; for, blind from having sight,  
And beggared from prosperity, with staff  
In stranger lands he shall feel forth his way;  
Shown living with the children of his loins,  
Their brother and their sire, and to the womb  
That bare him, husband-son, and to his father  
Murderer and joint-begetter. Now go in,  
Ponder my words; and if thou find'st them false,  
Then term my prophet-gift a senseless skill.

[OEDIPUS goes within; TEIRESIAS retires to the City.]

CHORUS.

I. 1.

Whom hath the mystic stone  
Declarèd to have done  
Horrors unnameable with blood-stained hand?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ὦρα νιν ἀελλάδων  
 ἕππων σθεναρώτερον  
 φυγῆ πόδα νωμᾶν.  
 ἔνοπλος γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἐπευθρώσκει  
 πυρὶ καὶ στεροπαῖς ὁ Διὸς γενέτας ·  
 δειναὶ δ' ἅμ' ἔπονται Κῆρες ἀναπλάκητοι.

ἀντ. α.

ἔλαμψε γὰρ τοῦ νιφόμεντος ἀρτίως φανείσα  
 φάμα Παρνασοῦ τὸν ἄδηλον ἄνδρα πάντ' ἰχνεύειν.

φοιτᾶ γὰρ ὑπ' ἀγρίαν  
 ὕλαν ἀνά τ' ἄντρα καὶ  
 πετραῖος ὁ ταῦρος,  
 μέλεος μελέφ ποδὶ χηρεύων,  
 τὰ μεσόμφαλα γᾶς ἀπουοσφίζων  
 μαντεῖα · τὰ δ' αἰεὶ ζῶντα περιποτᾶται.

στρ. β'.

δεινὰ μὲν οὖν, δεινὰ ταρασσει σοφὸς οἰνοθέτας  
 οὔτε δοκοῦντ' οὔτ' ἀποφάσκουθ' ὅτι λέξω δ' ἀπορῶ.  
 πέτομαι δ' ἐλπίσιν οὔτ' ἐνθάδ' ὄρων οὔτ' ὀπίσω.

τί γὰρ ἦ Λαβδακίδαις  
 ἦ τῷ Πολύβου νεῖκος ἔκειτ' οὔτε πάροιθεν ποτ' ἔγωγ' οὔτε  
 τανῦν πω

ἔμαθον, πρὸς ὅτου χρησόμενος δὴ βασάνω  
 ἐπὶ τὰν ἐπίδαμον  
 φάτιν εἰμ' Οἰδιπόδα Λαβδακίδαις ἐπίκουρος ἀδήλων θανά-  
 των.

ἀντ. β'.

ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Ζεὺς ὅ τ' Ἀπόλλων ξυνετοὶ καὶ τὰ βροτῶν



KING OEDIPUS.

With speed of storm-swift car  
'Tis time he fled afar  
With mighty footsteps hurrying from the land.  
For, armed with lightning brand,  
There leaps upon his track the son of Jove,  
And close behind the unerring Destinies move.

I. 2.

Late from the snow-tipped height  
This utterance sprang to light,  
To hunt on every track the man unknown.  
Through woodland caverns deep  
And o'er the rocky steep  
Like bull he ranges in the wilds alone,  
With none to share his moan,  
Shunning that prophet voice's central sound,  
Which ever lives, and haunts him, hovering round.

II. 1.

My heart is stirred  
With strange misgiving through the augur's word.  
Nor yea nor nay  
My mind will say,  
But flutters betwixt hope and fear,  
Seeing nor the present nor the future clear.  
What strife had grown  
Betwixt the son of Polybus and these  
The heirs of Labdacus, was never known  
Or yet to me confessed  
By any certain test,  
That I could bring to quench the popular praise  
Of Oedipus, or with conviction strong  
To vindicate a dark mysterious wrong.

II. 2.

Zeus and his son  
Know surely all that o'er the earth is done:

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

εἰδότες· ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτι μάντις πλέον ἢ γῶ φέρεται, 500  
 κρίσις οὐκ ἔστιν ἀληθής· σοφία δ' ἂν σοφίαν  
 παραμείψειεν ἀνὴρ.

ἀλλ' οὔποτ' ἔγωγ' ἂν, πρὶν ἴδοιμ' ὀρθὸν ἔπος, μεμφομένων  
 ἂν καταφαίην. 505

φανερὰ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ πτερόεσσ' ἦλθε κόρα  
 ποτέ, καὶ σοφὸς ἄφθῃ  
 βασάνῳ θ' ἀδύπολις· τῷ ἀπ' ἐμᾶς φρενὸς οὔποτ' ὀφλήσει  
 κακίαν. 510

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄνδρες πολῖται, δεῖν' ἔπη πεπυσμένος [Introit.  
 κατηγορεῖν μου τὸν τύραννον Οἰδίπου  
 πύρειμ' ἀτλητῶν. εἰ γὰρ ἐν ταῖς ξυμφοραῖς 515  
 ταῖς νῦν νομίζει πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεπουθῆναι  
 λόγουςιν εἴτ' ἔργοισιν εἰς βλάβην φέρου,  
 οὔτοι βίου μοι τοῦ μακραίωνος πόθος,  
 φέρουσι τήνδε βάξιν. οὐ γὰρ εἰς ἀπλοῦν  
 ἢ ζημία μοι τοῦ λόγου τούτου φέρει, 520  
 ἀλλ' ἐς μέγιστον, εἰ κακὸς μὲν ἐν πόλει,  
 κακὸς δὲ πρὸς σοῦ καὶ φίλων κεκλήσομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ἦλθε μὲν δὴ τοῦτο τοῦνειδος τάχ' ἂν  
 ὀργῇ βιασθῆν μαλλον ἢ γνώμη φρενῶν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ πρὸς δ' ἐφάνθη ταῖς ἐμαῖς γνώμαις ὅτι 525  
 πεισθεῖς ὁ μάντις τοὺς λόγους ψευδεῖς λέγοι ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἠυδᾶτο μὲν τάδ', οἶδα δ' οὐ γνώμη τίμη.

KING OEDIPUS.

But that the seer  
Hath wisdom clear,  
Or more endowment than the crowd,  
Was never yet with evidence allowed.  
A man by wit  
May pass the bound another man hath won ;  
But never, till I see fulfilment fit,  
Will I confirm the blame  
They cast upon his name.  
Wise he was found beneath the searching sun,  
And kind to Thebè, when the Sphinx came forth  
And sang. My heart shall never doubt his worth.

CREON.

*[Enters at the right, from the City.]*

Citizens, hearing that great Oedipus,  
Our sovereign, hath been launching at my head  
Dire accusation, I stand here resolved  
Not to endure it. In the late events  
If he imagine he hath ta'en from me  
Aught to his detriment by word or deed,  
I am not careful to prolong my life  
Beneath such imputation. For the harm  
Of such a calumny importeth not  
Some single business, but of all the chief,  
That I be ill-reported in the State,  
And hardly thought of by my friends and you.

CHORUS.

Perchance 'twas but the sudden flash of wrath,  
Not the deliberate judgment of the soul.

CREON.

Who gave in evidence that the prophet spake  
False prophecies at my suggestion?

CHORUS.

Such was the word, I know not how advised.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἔξ ὀμμάτων δ' ὀρθῶν τε καὶ ὀρθῆς φρενὸς  
κατηγορεῖτο τοῦπίκλημα τοῦτό μου ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' · ἂ γὰρ δρῶσ' οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐχ ὀρῶ. 530  
αὐτὸς δ' ὄδ' ἤδη δωμάτων ἔξω περᾶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος σύ, πῶς δεῦρ' ἦλθες ; ἦ τοσονδ' ἔχεις [Introit.  
τόλμης πρόσωπον ὥστε τὰς ἐμὰς στέγας  
ἴκου, φονεὺς ὦν τοῦδε τάνδρὸς ἐμφανῶς  
ληστής τ' ἐναργῆς τῆς ἐμῆς τυραννίδος ; 535  
φέρ' εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, δειλίαν ἢ μωρίαν  
ἰδὼν τιν' ἐν ἐμοὶ ταῦτ' ἐβουλεύσω ποιεῖν ;  
ἦ τοῦργον ὡς οὐ γνωρίσοιμί σου τόδε  
δόλω προσέρπον κοῦκ ἀλεξοίμην μαθῶν ;  
ἄρ' οὐχὶ μῶρόν ἐστι τοῦγχείρημά σου, 540  
ἄνευ τε πλήθους καὶ φίλων τυραννίδα  
θηρᾶν, ὃ πλήθει χρήμασιν θ' ἄλίσκεται ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οἶσθ' ὡς ποιήσον ; ἀντὶ τῶν εἰρημένων  
ἴσ' ἀντάκουσον, κατὰ κρίν' αὐτὸς μαθῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

λέγειν σὺ δεινός, μαθάνειν δ' ἐγὼ κακός 545  
σοῦ · δυσμενῆ γὰρ καὶ βαρύν σ' εὔρηκ' ἐμοί.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦτ' αὐτὸ νῦν μου πρῶτ' ἄκουσον ὡς ἐρῶ.

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

And with a steady eye, and mind not frantic,  
Was this dark obloquy denounced on me?

CHORUS.

I cannot say. To what my betters do  
I am blind. But see, the King comes forth again.

OEDIPUS.

[*Enters.*]

Insolent, art thou here? Hadst thou the face  
To bring thy boldness near my palace-roof,  
Convicted of contriving 'gainst my life  
And laying robber hands upon my state?  
I pr'ythee tell, did you perceive in me  
A coward or a fool, when you planned this?  
Was't that I would not notice your attempt  
Craftily creeping on, or, when perceived,  
Not ward it off? Is't not a silly scheme,  
To think to compass without troops of friends  
Power, that is only won by wealth and men?

CREON.

Wilt be advised? Hear but as much in turn  
As thou hast spoken, and then thyself be judge.

OEDIPUS.

I know thy tongue, but I am slow to learn  
From thee, whom I have found my grievous foe.

CREON.

First on this very point, hear me declare —

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τοῦτ' αὐτὸ μή μοι φράζ', ὅπως οὐκ εἶ κακός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἴ τοι νομίζεις κτῆμα τὴν αὐθαδίαν  
εἶναί τι τοῦ νοῦ χωρίς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖς.

550

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

εἴ τοι νομίζεις ἄνδρα συγγενῆ κακῶς  
δρῶν οὐχ ὑφέξειν τὴν δίκην, οὐκ εὔ φρονεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ξύμφημί σοι ταῦτ' ἔνδικ' εἰρήσθαι· τὸ δὲ  
πάθην' ὅποιον φῆς παθεῖν δίδασκέ με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔπειθες, ἢ οὐκ ἔπειθες, ὡς χρεῖή μ' ἐπὶ  
τὸν σεμνόμαντιν ἄνδρα πέμψασθαί τινα ;

555

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ νῦν ἔθ' αὐτός εἰμι τῷ βουλευμάτι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πόσον τιν' ἤδη δῆθ' ὁ Λαίιος χρόνον —

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

δέδρακε ποῖον ἔργον ; οὐ γὰρ ἐννοῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄφαντος ἔρρει θανασίμῳ χειρώματι ;

560

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

μακροὶ παλαιοὶ τ' ἂν μετρηθεῖεν χρόνοι.

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

I will not hear that thou art not a villain.

CREON.

Yours is a shallow judgment, if you think  
Pride without knowledge can be any gain.

OEDIPUS.

Yours is a shallow judgment, if you think  
You can abuse your kinsman and be free.

CREON.

Right. I assent to that. But I would learn  
The nature of this wrong of which you speak.

OEDIPUS.

Was it or was it not by your advice  
I sent to bring the seeming-reverend seer?

CREON.

It was, and still I hold the counsel firm.

OEDIPUS.

How long is't now, I pray, since Laïus —

CREON.

Performed what deed? I do not catch your drift.

OEDIPUS.

Vanished in ruin by a dire defeat?

CREON.

Were the time measured, it were long and old.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τότ' οὖν ὁ μάντις οὗτος ἦν ἐν τῇ τέχνῃ ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

σοφός γ' ὁμοίως καὶ ἴσου τιμώμενος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἐμνήσατ' οὖν ἐμοῦ τι τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ οὖν ἐμοῦ γ' ἐστῶτος οὐδαμοῦ πέλας.

565

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔρευναν τοῦ θανόντος ἔσχετε ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

παρέσχομεν, πῶς δ' οὐχί ; κοῦκ ἠκούσαμεν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς οὖν τόθ' οὗτος ὁ σοφὸς οὐκ ἠῦδα τίδε ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ οἶδ'· ἐφ' οἷς γὰρ μὴ φρονῶ σιγᾶν φιλιῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τοσόνδε γ' οἶσθα καὶ λέγοις ἂν εἶ φρονῶν.

570

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ποιὸν τόδ' ; εἰ γὰρ οἶδά γ', οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὀθούνεκ', εἰ μὴ σοὶ ξυνῆλθε, τὰς ἐμὰς  
οὐκ ἂν ποτ' εἶπε Λαίῳ διαφθορῆς.



KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Well, did this prophet then profess his art?

CREON.

Wise then as now, nor less in reverence.

OEDIPUS.

And in that period did he mention me?

CREON.

Not in my hearing.

OEDIPUS.

But, I may presume,  
Ye held an inquisition o'er the dead?

CREON.

Yes, we inquired, of course: and could not hear.

OEDIPUS.

How had this wise man then no word of this?

CREON.

I speak but what I know. I cannot say.

OEDIPUS.

Clear knowledge may allow you in one speech.

CREON.

In what? I will not gainsay, if I know.

OEDIPUS.

That, had you not been at his ear, he ne'er  
Had sought to fasten Larus' death on me.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ μὲν λέγει τάδ', αὐτὸς οἶσθ'· ἐγὼ δέ σου  
μαθεῖν δικαίῳ ταῦθ' ἄπερ κάμου σὺ νῦν.

575

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐκμάνθαν'· οὐ γὰρ δὴ φονεὺς ἀλώσομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δῆτ' ; ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν γήμας ἔχεις ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄρνησις οὐκ ἔνεστιν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄρχεις δ' ἐκείνη ταυτὰ γῆς ἴσον νέμων ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἂν ἧ θέλουσα πάντ' ἐμοῦ κομίζεται.

580

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκουν ἰσοῦμαι σφῶν ἐγὼ δυοῖν τρίτος ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ καὶ κακὸς φαίνει φίλος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ, εἰ διδοίης γ' ὡς ἐγὼ σαυτῷ λόγον.  
σκέψαι δὲ τοῦτο πρῶτον, εἴ τιν' ἂν δοκεῖς  
ἄρχειν ἐλέσθαι ξὺν φόβοισι μᾶλλον ἢ  
ἄτρεστον εὐδοντ', εἰ τὰ γ' αὐθ' ἔξει κράτη.  
ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὐτ' αὐτὸς ἰμείρων ἔφην

585

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

You know if he said this. But I in turn  
Would be the questioner, and ask thee this. —

OEDIPUS.

Ask on. No questioning can prove me guilty.

CREON.

Tell me. Hast thou my sister for thy queen?

OEDIPUS.

The fact is patent, and denial vain.

CREON.

And shar'st with her dominion of this realm?

OEDIPUS.

All she desires is given her by my will.

CREON.

Well, am not I third-partner with you twain?

OEDIPUS.

There is your villainy in breaking fealty.

CREON.

Not so, if thou wouldst reason with thyself  
As I now reason. First consider this:  
Who would choose power accompanied with fears  
Before safe slumbers with an equal sway?  
'Tis not my nature, no, nor any man's

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

τύραννος εἶναι μάλλον ἢ τύραννα δρᾶν,  
 οὐτ' ἄλλος ὅστις σωφρονεῖν ἐπίσταται.  
 νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ πάντ' ἄνευ φόβου φέρω, 590  
 εἰ δ' αὐτὸς ἤρχου, πολλὰ κἂν ἄκων ἔδρων.  
 πῶς δῆτ' ἐμοὶ τυραννὶς ἠδίων ἔχειν  
 ἀρχῆς ἀλύπου καὶ δυναστείας ἔφυ ;  
 οὐπω τοσοῦτον ἠπατημένος κυρῶ  
 ὥστ' ἄλλα χρήζειν ἢ τὰ σὺν κέρδει καλά. 595  
 νῦν πᾶσι χαίρω, νῦν με πᾶς ἀσπάζεται,  
 νῦν οἱ σέθεν χρήζοντες ἐκκαλοῦσί με·  
 τὸ γὰρ τυχεῖν αὐτοῖσι πᾶν ἐνταῦθ' ἔνι.  
 πῶς δῆτ' ἐγὼ κεῖν' ἂν λάβοιμ' ἀφείς τάδε ;  
 οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο νοῦς κακὸς καλῶς φρονῶν. 600  
 ἀλλ' οὐτ' ἐραστῆς τῆσδε τῆς γνώμης ἔφυν  
 οὐτ' ἂν μετ' ἄλλου δρῶντος ἂν τλαιῖν ποτέ.  
 καὶ τῶνδ' ἔλεγχον τοῦτο μὲν Πυθῶδ' ἰὼν  
 πεύθου τὰ χρησθέντ', εἰ σαφῶς ἠγγειλά σοι·  
 τοῦτ' ἄλλ', εἰάν με τῷ τερασκόπῳ λάβῃς 605  
 κοινῇ τι βουλεύσαντα, μή μ' ἀπλῆ κτάνης  
 ψήφῳ, διπλῆ δέ, τῇ τ' ἐμῇ καὶ σῇ, λαβῶν.  
 γνώμη δ' ἀδήλω μή με χωρὶς αἰτιῶ.  
 οὐ γὰρ δίκαιον οὔτε τοὺς κακοὺς μάτην  
 χρηστοὺς νομίζειν οὔτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακοὺς. 610  
 φίλον γὰρ ἐσθλὸν ἐκβαλεῖν ἴσον λέγω  
 καὶ τὸν παρ' αὐτῷ βίσιον, ὃν πλείστον φιλεῖ.  
 ἀλλ' ἐν χρόνῳ γνώσει τάδ' ἀσφαλῶς, ἐπεὶ  
 χρόνος δίκαιον ἄνδρα δείκνυσιν μόνος,  
 κακὸν δὲ κἂν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ γνοίης μιᾶ. 615

KING OEDIPUS.

Whom modest wisdom rules, to love the place  
Of domination rather than the power.  
Now, without fear, I have my will from thee ;  
But were I king, I should do much unwillingly.  
How then can I desire to be a king,  
When I have rule and lordship undisturbed ?  
Delusion hath not gone so far with me  
As to wish more than honour joined with gain.  
Now all men count me happy, all embrace me ;  
Now he that needs thee calls me to his side,  
For on this chance his fortune wholly turns.  
How should I leave this substance for that show ?  
No man of sense can be a criminal.  
Such wild ambition hath not my desires,  
Nor could I bring myself to lend it aid.  
If you would test me, go and ask again  
If I brought Phoebus' answer truly back.  
Nay, more, if you shall find me to have planned  
Aught in collusion with the seer, destroy me,  
Not with one vote, but two, mine own with thine.  
But do not on a mere suspicion blame  
My course of thine own will. To call good evil,  
Or evil good, without clear cause, is sin.  
And to cast off a worthy friend I call  
No less a folly than to fling away  
The life we love, that harbours in our breast.  
The certainty of this will come with time ;  
For time alone can prove the righteous man.  
One day suffices to proclaim the villain,

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κιλῶς ἔλεξεν εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν,  
ἄναξ· φρονεῖν γὰρ οἱ ταχεῖς οὐκ ἀσφαλεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὅταν ταχύς τις οὐπιβουλεύων λάθρα  
χωρῆ, ταχὺν δεῖ κάμει βουλεύειν πάλιν.  
εἰ δ' ἡσυχάζων προσμενῶ, τὰ τοῦδε μὲν  
πεπραγμέν' ἔσται, τὰ μὰ δ' ἡμαρτημένα.

620

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δῆτα χρήξεις; ἢ με γῆς ἔξω βαλεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἦκιστα· θνήσκειν, οὐ φυγεῖν σε βούλομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ὅταν προδείξῃς οἶόν ἐστι τὸ φθονεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὡς οὐχ ὑπείξων οὐδὲ πιστεύσων λέγεις;

625

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐ γὰρ φρονούντά σ' εὖ βλέπω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸ γοῦν ἐμόν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀλλ' ἐξ ἴσου δεῖ κάμόν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' ἔφυς κακός.

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

Prudence bids hearken to such words, my lord,  
For fear one fall. Swift is not sure in thought.

OEDIPUS.

When he who hath designs on me is swift  
In his advance, I must bethink me swiftly.  
Should I wait leisurely, his secret work  
Is perfected, and mine hath missed success.

CREON.

What would you then? To thrust me from the land?

OEDIPUS.

Nay, death, not exile, is my wish for thee.

CREON.

When thou shalt show what is the grudge I bear thee.

OEDIPUS.

Meanest thou not to yield nor to obey me?

CREON.

Because I see you blind.

OEDIPUS.

Not to my need.

CREON.

Mine must be thought of too.

OEDIPUS.

You are a villain.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ δὲ ξυνίης μηδέν ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀρκτέον γ' ὄμως.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔτοι κακῶς γ' ἄρχοντος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ πόλις πόλις.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

κάμοι πόλεως μέτεστιν, οὐχὶ σοὶ μόνῳ.

630

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παύσασθ', ἄνακτες · καιρίαν δ' ὑμῖν ὀρώ  
τήνδ' ἐκ δόμων στείχουσαν Ἰοκάστην, μεθ' ἧς  
τὸ νῦν παρεστὸς νεῖκος εὔ θέσθαι χρεῶν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί τὴν ἄβουλον, ὦ ταλαίπωροι, στάσιν [Introit.  
γλώσσης ἐπήρασθ' ; οὐδ' ἐπαισχύνεσθε, γῆς 635  
οὕτω νοσοῦσης, ἴδια κινοῦντες κακά ;  
οὐκ εἶ σύ τ' οἴκους σύ τε, Κρέον, κατὰ στέγας,  
καὶ μὴ τὸ μηδὲν ἄλγος εἰς μέγ' οἴσετε ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἴμαιμε, δεινὰ μ' Οἰδίπους ὁ σὸς πόσις  
δρᾶσαι δικαιοῖ, δυοῖν ἀποκρίνας κακοῖν, 640  
ἢ γῆς ἀπῶσαι πατρίδος, ἢ κτεῖναι λαβῶν —

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ξύμφημι · δρῶντα γάρ νιν, ὦ γύναι, κακῶς  
εἴληφα τοῦμόν σῶμα σὺν τέχνῃ κακῇ.



KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

Suppose you are all ignorance?

OEDIPUS.

Must be maintained even then, My power

CREON.

Authority  
Sorts not with error.

OEDIPUS.

O my citizens!

CREON.

I have a part in them as well as you.

CHORUS.

Cease, princes. Opportunely I behold  
Jocasta coming toward you from the palace.  
Her presence may attune your jarring minds.

JOCASTA.

[*Enters.*]

Unhappy that ye are, why have ye reared  
Your wordy rancour 'mid the city's harms?  
Have you no shame, to stir up private broils  
In such a time as this? Get thee within!  
And thou, too, Creon! nor enlarge your griefs  
To make a mountain out of nothingness.

CREON.

Sister, thy husband Oedipus declares  
One of two horrors he will work on me,  
Banishment from my native soil, or death.

OEDIPUS.

Yes, for I caught him practising, my queen,  
Against our person with malignant guile.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

μή νυν ὀναίμην, ἀλλ' ἀραῖος, εἴ σέ τι  
δέδρακ', ὀλοίμην, ὦν ἐπαιτιᾶ με δρᾶν.

645

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὦ πρὸς θεῶν πίστευσον, Οἰδίπους, τάδε,  
μάλιστα μὲν τόνδ' ὄρκον αἰδεσθεῖς θεῶν,  
ἔπειτα καμὲ τούσδε θ' οἱ πάρεισί σοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.

πιθοῦ θελήσας φρονήσας τ', ἄναξ, λίσσομαι.

650

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τί σοι θέλεις δῆτ' εἰκάθω ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸν οὔτε πρὶν νήπιον νῦν τ' ἐν ὄρκῳ μέγαν καταίδεσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἶσθ' οὖν ἅ χρῆζεις ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶδα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

φράζε δή· τί φῆς ; 655

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸν ἐναγῆ φίλον μήποτ' ἐν αἰτία  
σὺν ἀφανεῖ λόγῳ σ' ἄτιμον βαλεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

εὖ νυν ἐπίστω, ταῦθ' ὅταν ζητῆς, ἐμοὶ  
ζητῶν ὄλεθρον ἢ φυγὴν ἐκ τῆσδε γῆς.

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

May comforts fail me and a withering curse  
Destroy me, if I e'er tried aught of this.

JOCASTA.

I pray thee, husband, listen to his plea ;  
Chiefly respecting his appeal to Heaven,  
But also me, and these who stand by thee.

CHORUS.

Incline to our request  
Thy mind and will, O king !

OEDIPUS.

What would you I should yield unto your prayer ?

CHORUS.

Respect one ever wise,  
Whose oath protects him now.

OEDIPUS.

Know ye what thing ye ask ?

CHORUS.

I know.

OEDIPUS.

Then clearly tell.

CHORUS.

Thy friend, whose voice is hallowed by his oath,  
Rob not of honour through a dim surmise.

OEDIPUS.

In asking that, you labour for my death  
Or banishment. Of this be well assured.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐ τὸν πάντων θεῶν θεὸν πρόμον 660  
 Ἄλιον· ἐπεὶ ἄθεος ἄφιλός ὃ τι πύματον  
 ὀλοίμαν, φρόνησιν εἰ τάνδ' ἔχω.  
 ἀλλὰ μοι δυσμόρφ' γὰ φθινύς 665  
 τρύχει ψυχάν, τὰδ' εἰ κακοῖς κακὰ  
 προσάψει τοῖς πάλαι τὰ πρὸς σφῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὁ δ' οὖν ἵτω, κεῖ χρεῖ με παντελῶς θανεῖν,  
 ἢ γῆς ἄτιμον τῆσδ' ἀπωσθῆναι βία. 670  
 τὸ γὰρ σόν, οὐ τὸ τοῦδ', ἐποικτείρω στόμα  
 ἐλειών· οὗτος δ', ἔνθ' ἂν ἦ, στυγῆσεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

στυγνὸς μὲν εἶκων δῆλος εἶ, βαρὺς δ', ὅταν  
 θυμοῦ περάσῃς. αἱ δὲ τοιαῦται φύσεις 675  
 αὐταῖς δικαίως εἰσὶν ἄλγισται φέρειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκ οὖν μ' ἐάσεις κακτὸς εἶ ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πορεύσομαι,  
 σοῦ μὲν τυχῶν ἀγνώτος, ἐν δὲ τοῖσδ' ἴσος. [Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀντ.

γύναι, τί μέλλεις κομίζεω δόμων τόνδ' ἔσω ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μαθοῦσά γ' ἦτις ἡ τύχη. 680

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

No, by the Sun I swear,  
Vaunt-cotrier of the host of heaven.  
For may I die the last of deaths,  
Unblest of God or friend,  
If e'er such thought were mine.  
But oh! this pining land  
Afflicts my hapless soul,  
To think that to her past and present woe  
She must add this, that springs to her from you.

OEDIPUS.

Then let him range, though I must die outright,  
Or be thrust forth with violence from the land.  
Not for his voice but thine, which wrings my heart:  
He, wheresoe'er he live, shall have my hate.

CREON.

You show yourself as sullen when you yield,  
As unendurable in your fury's height.  
Such natures justly give themselves most pain.

OEDIPUS.

Let me alone, then, and begone!

CREON.

I go,  
Unchanged to these, though I have found thee blind.  
*[Retires to the City.]*

CHORUS.

Lady, why tarriest thou  
To lead thy husband in?

JOCASTA.

I will, when ye have told me what hath passed.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δόκησις ἀγνῶς λόγων ἦλθε, δάκνει δὲ καὶ τὸ μὴ ἴνδικον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀμφοῖν ἀπ' αὐτοῖν ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ναίχι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ τίς ἦν λόγος ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄλις ἔμοιγ', ἄλις, γὰς προπονουμένας, 685  
φαίνεται ἐνθ' ἔληξεν αὐτοῦ μένειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὄρῃς ἔν' ἦκεις, ἀγαθὸς ὦν γνώμην ἀνῆρ,  
τοῦμὸν παριεῖς καὶ καταμβλύνων κέαρ ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄναξ, εἶπον μὲν οὐχ ἄπαξ μόνον, 690  
ἴσθι δὲ παραφρόνιμον, ἄπορον ἐπὶ φρόνιμα  
πεφάνθαι μ' ἄν, εἴ σε νοσφίζομαι,  
ὅς τ' ἐμὰν γᾶν φίλαν ἐν πόνοις 695  
σαλεύουσαν κατ' ὀρθὸν οὕρισας,  
τανῦν τ' εὐπομπος εἰ γένοιο.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πρὸς θεῶν δίδαξον κάμ', ἄναξ, ὅτου ποτὲ  
μῆνιν τοσήνδε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἔρῳ· σὲ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐς πλέον, γύναι, σέβω· 700  
Κρέοντος, οἷά μοι βεβουλευκῶς ἔχει.

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

Words without knowledge voiced a vague surmise ;  
And accusations, though unfounded, sting.

JOCASTA.

Came this from both of them ?

CHORUS.

From both alike.

JOCASTA.

And what was the dispute ?

CHORUS.

Enough for me,  
Amplly enough it seemeth, when the land  
Is vexed already, not to wake what sleeps.

OEDIPUS.

Observe where thou art landed, honest friend,  
Slackening my wrath, and bating my desire !

CHORUS.

My prince, not once alone  
I spake it, but again.  
I should be clearly mad,  
Unfurnished of all sense,  
To loose my clasp from thee,  
Who, when my land was sore distraught,  
Didst speed her forth anew with favouring gale.  
Now, too, if but thou may'st, be our good guide.

JOCASTA.

Let not thy queen be kept in ignorance  
Why thou hast started such a power of wrath.

OEDIPUS.

I'll tell thee, lady, for I honour thee  
More than these citizens. 'Twas Creon there,  
And his inveterate treason against me.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

λέγ', εἰ σαφῶς τὸ νεῖκος ἐγκαλῶν ἐρείς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

φονέα μέ φησι Δαΐτου καθεστάναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

αὐτὸς ξυνειδώς, ἢ μαθὼν ἄλλου πάρα ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μάντιν μὲν οὖν κακοῦργον εἰσπέμφσας, ἐπεὶ 705  
τό γ' εἰς ἑαυτὸν πᾶν ἔλευθεροῖ στόμα.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

σύ νυν ἀφείς σεαυτὸν ὧν λέγεις πέρι  
ἐμοῦ ἴπικουσον καὶ μάθ' οὐνεκ' ἐστί σοι  
βρότειον οὐδὲν μαντικῆς ἔχον τέχνης.  
φανῶ δέ σοι σημεῖα τῶνδε σύντομα. 710  
χρησμὸς γὰρ ἦλθε Δαΐω ποτ', οὐκ ἐρῶ  
Φοίβου γ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, τῶν δ' ὑπηρητῶν ἄπο,  
ὡς αὐτὸν ἤξει μοῖρα πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν,  
ὅστις γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ τε κάκεινου πάρα.  
καὶ τὸν μὲν, ὡσπερ γ' ἡ φάτις, ξένοι ποτὲ 715  
λησταὶ φονεύουσ' ἐν τριπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς·  
παιδὸς δὲ βλάστας οὐ διέσχον ἡμέραι  
τρεῖς, καί νιν ἄρθρα κείνος ἐνζεύξας ποδοῖν  
ἔρριψεν ἄλλων χερσὶν εἰς ἄβατον ὄρος.  
κἀνταῦθ' Ἀπόλλων οὐτ' ἐκείνον ἦνυσεν 720  
φονέα γενέσθαι πατρὸς οὔτε Λαΐου,  
τὸ δεινὸν οὐφοβεῖτο, πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν.



KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.

Accuse him : so you make the quarrel clear.

OEDIPUS.

He saith I am the murderer of the king.

JOCASTA.

Of his own knowledge, or from others' word?

OEDIPUS.

He keeps his own lips free : but hath suborned  
A knavish soothsayer to this wickedness.

JOCASTA.

List, now, to me, and set your heart at rest  
On that you speak of, whilst I make you see  
No mortal thing is touched by prophecy.  
The proofs I show of this are brief and stern.  
Word came to Laïus once, I will not say  
From Phoebus' self, but from his ministers,  
That death should find him from his true-born son,  
Who should of both of us be genderèd.

And him, so rumour saith, strange robbers slew  
One morn, where two roads parted ; but the child  
Grew not three days, ere by my husband's hand  
His feet were locked, and he was cast and left  
By messengers on the waste mountain wold.  
So Loxias neither brought upon the boy  
His father's murder, nor on Laïus  
The thing he greatly feared, death by his son.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

τοιαῦτα φῆμαι μαντικά διώρισαν,  
ὦν ἐντρέπου σὺ μηδέν· ὦν γὰρ ἂν θεὸς  
χρεῖαν ἐρευνᾷ ῥαδίως αὐτὸς φανεί.

725

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἶόν μ' ἀκούσαντ' ἀρτίως ἔχει, γύναι,  
ψυχῆς πλάνημα κἀνακίνησις φρενῶν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ποίας μερίμνης τοῦθ' ὑποστραφεῖς λέγεις ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἔδοξ' ἀκούσαι σοῦ τόδ', ὡς ὁ Λαίιος  
κατασφαγεῖή πρὸς τριπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς.

730

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἠυδάτο γὰρ ταῦτ' οὐδέ πω λήξαντ' ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ χῶρος οὗτος οὐ τόδ' ἦν πάθος ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

Φωκὶς μὲν ἡ γῆ κλήζεται, σχιστὴ δ' ὁδὸς  
ἐς ταῦτ' Ἀελφῶν κἀπὸ Δαυλίας ἄγει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ τίς χρόνος τοῖσδ' ἐστὶν οὕξεληλυθώς ;

735

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

σχεδόν τι πρόσθεν ἢ σὺ τῆσδ' ἔχων χθονὸς  
ἀρχὴν ἐφαίνου τοῦτ' ἐκηρύχθη πόλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὦ Ζεῦ, τί μου δρᾶσαι βεβούλευσαι πέρι ;

KING OEDIPUS.

Such issues came of prophesying words,  
Therefore regard them not. God can himself  
With ease bring forth what for his ends he needs.

OEDIPUS.

How my soul's depths are stirred on hearing thee,  
My queen, what wildering fancies cloud my mind!

JOCASTA.

What care hath given this turn to thy discourse?

OEDIPUS.

Methought I heard thee say, King Latius  
Was at a crossway felled with slaughtering stroke.

JOCASTA.

Such was the tale that still hath currency.

OEDIPUS.

Where was the scene of this unhappiness?

JOCASTA.

Phocis the land is named: the parted ways  
Lead from one point to Daulia and to Delphi.

OEDIPUS.

What time hath passed since this affair was known?

JOCASTA.

'Twas just ere you appeared with prospering speed  
And took the kingdom, that these tidings came.

OEDIPUS.

What are your purposes against me, gods?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἐστὶ σοι τοῦτ', Οιδίπους, ἐνθύμιον ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μήπω μ' ἐρώτα· τὸν δὲ Λαίον φύσιν 740  
τίν' εἶχε φράζε, τίνα δ' ἀκμὴν ἤβης ἔχων.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μέγας, χνοάζων ἄρτι λευκανθὲς κάρα,  
μορφῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς οὐκ ἀπεστάτει πολὺ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οἴμοι τάλας· ἔοικ' ἔμαντὸν εἰς ἀράς  
δεινὰς προβάλλων ἀρτίως οὐκ εἰδέναι. 745

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πῶς φῆς ; ὀκνῶ τοι πρὸς σ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἀναξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

δεινῶς ἀθυμῶ μὴ βλέπων ὁ μάντις ἦ.  
δείξεις δὲ μάλλον, ἦν ἐν ἐξείτης ἔτι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ μὴν ὀκνῶ μέν, ἀ δ' ἂν ἔρη μαθοῦσ' ἐρῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πότερον ἐχώρει βαιός, ἢ πολλοὺς ἔχων 750  
ἄνδρας λοχίτας, οἳ' ἀνὴρ ἀρχηγέτης ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πέντ' ἦσαν οἱ ξύμπαντες, ἐν δ' αὐτοῖσιν ἦν  
κῆρυξ· ἀπήνη δ' ἦγε Λαίον μία.

KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.

Why broods thy mind on such a thought, O king?

OEDIPUS.

Nay, ask me not. But tell me first, what height  
Had Larus, and what share of manly bloom?

JOCASTA.

Tall, with a head just silvered o'er with grey:  
In shape and bearing much resembling thee.

OEDIPUS.

O heavy fate! 'Twould seem that even now  
I flung myself unknowing on the curse.

JOCASTA.

How?  
I shudder as I gaze on thee, O king.

OEDIPUS.

The dread appals me that the seer can see.  
Tell one thing more to make it doubly clear.

JOCASTA.

I shrink to speak, but, when you ask, I will.

OEDIPUS.

Had he scant following, or, like a prince,  
Full numbers of a richly armed train?

JOCASTA.

There were but five in all: a herald one:  
And Larus travelled in the only car.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

αἰαί, τάδ' ἤδη διαφανῆ. τίς ἦν ποτε  
ὁ τούσδε λέξας τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν, γύναι ;

755

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οἰκέυς τις, ὅσπερ ἴκετ' ἐκσωθεὶς μόνος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ κὰν δόμοισι τυγχάνει ταυῦν παρών ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὐ δῆτ'· ἀφ' οὗ γὰρ κείθεν ἦλθε καὶ κράτη  
σέ τ' εἶδ' ἔχοντα Λαίϊόν τ' ὀλωλότα,  
ἐξικέτευσε τῆς ἐμῆς χειρὸς θυγῶν  
ἀγρούς σφεπέμψαι κἀπὶ ποιμνίων νομάς,  
ὡς πλείστον εἴη τοῦδ' ἀποπτος ἄστεως.  
καῖπεμψ' ἐγὼ νιν· ἄξιός γάρ ὡς γ' ἀνὴρ  
δοῦλος φέρειν ἦν τῆσδε καὶ μείζω χάριν.

760

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς ἂν μόλοι δῆθ' ἡμῖν ἐν τάχει πάλιν ;

765

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πάρεστιν. ἀλλὰ πρὸς τί τοῦτ' ἐφίεσαι ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

δέδοικ' ἐμαυτόν, ὦ γύναι, μὴ πόλλ' ἄγαν  
εἰρημέν' ἦ μοι, δι' ἃ νιν εἰσιδεῖν θέλω.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ' ἴξεται μέν· ἀξία δέ που μαθεῖν  
καγὼ τά γ' ἐν σοὶ δυσφόρως ἔχοντ', ἀναξ.

770

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Woe! woe! 'Tis clear as daylight. Who was he  
That brought you this intelligence, my queen?

JOCASTA.

A household slave, who living 'scaped alone.

OEDIPUS.

And may it be that he is now within?

JOCASTA.

No, truly. When he came from yonder scene,  
And saw thee on the throne with Larus dead,  
He touched my hand, and made his instant prayer  
That I would send him to o'er-look the flocks  
And rural pastures, so to live as far  
As might be from the very thought of Thebes.  
And he obtained from me his suit. No slave  
Could better merit richest boon than he.

OEDIPUS.

Would he might come again immediately!

JOCASTA.

Doubtless he may. But why desire it thus?

OEDIPUS.

I fear me I have spoken far too much.  
In words that make me wish to see him come.

JOCASTA.

Well, so he shall. But 'tis my right to know  
What in thy state goes heavily, my king.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

κού μὴ στερηθῆς γ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἐλπίδων  
 ἐμοῦ βεβῶτος. τῷ γὰρ ἂν καὶ μείζονι  
 λέξαιμ' ἂν ἢ σοὶ διὰ τύχης τοιαῦσδ' ἰών ;  
 ἐμοὶ πατὴρ μὲν Πόλυβος ἦν Κορίνθιος,  
 μήτηρ δὲ Μερόπη Δωρίς. ἠγόμην δ' ἀνὴρ 775  
 ἀστῶν μέγιστος τῶν ἐκεῖ, πρὶν μοι τύχη  
 τοιαύδ' ἐπέστη, θαυμάσαι μὲν ἀξία,  
 σπουδῆς γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς οὐκ ἀξία.  
 ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἐν δαίπνοις μ' ὑπερπλησθεὶς μέθη  
 καλεῖ παρ' οἴῳ πλαστός ὡς εἶην πατρί. 780  
 καὶ γὰρ βαρυνθεὶς τὴν μὲν οὔσαν ἡμέραν  
 μόλις κατέσχον, θάτερα δ' ἰὼν πέλας  
 μητρὸς πατρός τ' ἠλεγχον· οἱ δὲ δυσφόρως  
 τοῦνειδος ἦγον τῷ μεθέντι τὸν λόγον.  
 καὶ γὰρ τὰ μὲν κείνοιον ἕτερπόμεν, ὅμως δ'  
 ἔκνιζέ μ' αἰεὶ τοῦθ'· ὑφείρπε γὰρ πολύ. 785  
 λάθρα δὲ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς πορεύομαι  
 Πυθῶδε, καί μ' ὁ Φοῖβος ὦν μὲν ἰκόμην  
 ἄτιμον ἐξέπεμψεν, ἄλλα δ' ἄθλια  
 καὶ δεινὰ καὶ δύστηνα προυφάνη λέγων, 790  
 ὡς μητρὶ μὲν χρειῆ με μιχθῆναι, γένος δ'  
 ἄτλητον ἀνθρώποισι δηλώσοιμ' ὄραν,  
 φονεὺς δ' ἐσοίμην τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.  
 καὶ γὰρ ἴπακούσας ταῦτα τὴν Κορινθίαν  
 ἄστροις τὸ λοιπὸν ἐκμετρούμενος χθόνα 795  
 ἔφευγον, ἔνθα μήποτ' ὀφροίμην κακῶν  
 χρησμῶν ὀνειδή τῶν ἐμῶν τελοῦμένα.



KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

And thou shalt have it, when my thoughts have risen  
To such a flight of wild expectancy.

To whom more worthy can I loose my heart  
In travelling through such a perilous strait?

My father was Corinthian Polybus,  
And Meropè of Doris was my mother.

My life was held the noblest in esteem  
Through all Achaia, till a chance appeared,  
Deserving admiration, but, though strange,  
Not worthy of the earnest heed I gave it.

For at a feasting once, over the wine,  
One who had drunk his fill, called out to me,  
"Hail, spurious foundling of thy foster-sire!"

I that one day the passion at my heart  
Hardly controlled, but, on the morrow morn,  
Went near and proved my parents, who were fierce  
In wrath at him whose lips had broached this word.

For their part I was satisfied, but still  
This vexed me, for the rumour would not die.

Unknown to both my parents then I went  
To Pytho, where, as touching my desire,  
Phoebus repulsed me; but brake forth instead

With other oracles of misery  
And horrible misfortune, how that I  
Must know my mother's shame, and manifest  
A birth intolerable to human view,  
And do to death the giver of my life.

I fled forth at the word, and, measuring now  
Corinthia's region by the stars alone,  
Went roaming, where I never might behold  
Those shameful prophecies fulfilled on me.

*My  
impression*

*crossed  
- 2 -*

στείχων δ' ἰκνούμαι τούσδε τοὺς χώρους ἐν οἷς  
 σὺ τὸν τύραννον τοῦτον ὄλλυσθαι λέγεις.  
 καὶ σοι, γύναι, τὰληθεῖς ἐξερώ. τριπλῆς 800  
 ὄτ' ἦ κελεύθου τῆσδ' ὄδοιπορῶν πέλας,  
 ἐνταῦθά μοι κῆρυξ τε κύπι πωλικῆς  
 ἀνὴρ ἀπήνης ἐμβεβώς, οἶον σὺ φῆς,  
 ξυνηντίαζον· κάξ ὁδοῦ μ' ὄθ' ἠγεμὼν  
 αὐτός θ' ὁ πρέσβυς πρὸς βίαν ἠλαυνέτην. 805  
 καγὼ τὸν ἐκτρέποντα, τὸν τροχηλάτην,  
 παίω δι' ὀργῆς· καὶ μ' ὁ πρέσβυς ὡς ὀρᾶ,  
 ὄχου παραστείχοντα τηρήσας μέσον  
 κύρα διπλοῖς κέντροισί μου καθίκετο.  
 οὐ μὴν ἴσην γ' ἔτισεν, ἀλλὰ συντόμως 810  
 σκήπτρῳ τυπεῖς ἐκ τῆσδε χειρὸς ὑπτίως  
 μέσης ἀπήνης εὐθύς ἐκκυλίνδεται·  
 κτείνω δὲ τοὺς ξύμπαντας. εἰ δὲ τῷ ξένῳ  
 τούτῳ προσήκει Λαίῳ τι συγγενές,  
 τίς τοῦδέ γ' ἀνδρὸς ἔστιν ἀθλιώτερος ; 815  
 τίς ἐχθροδαίμων μᾶλλον ἂν γένοιτ' ἀνήρ ;  
 ᾧ μὴ ξένων ἔξεστι μῆδ' ἀστῶν τινα  
 δόμοις δέχεσθαι, μῆδὲ προσφωνεῖν τινα,  
 ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων. καὶ τὰδ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἦν  
 ἢ γῶ' ἢ π' ἐμαντῷ τάσδ' ἄραὺς ὁ προστιθείς. 820  
 λέχη δὲ τοῦ θανόντος ἐν χεροῖν ἐμαῖν  
 χραίνω, δι' ὧν περ ὤλετ'. ἄρ' ἔφυν κακός ;  
 ἄρ' οὐχὶ πᾶς ἀναγνος, εἴ με χρῆ φυγεῖν,  
 καὶ μοι φυγόντι μῆστι τοὺς ἐμούς ἰδεῖν  
 μῆδ' ἐμβατεύειν πατρίδος, ἢ γάμοις με δεῖ 825

KING OEDIPUS.

So faring on, I reached the spot, where thou  
Narratest the destruction of this king.  
And, O my wife, I will hide nothing from thee.  
When I drew near the cross-road that you speak of,  
A herald, and a man upon a car,  
Like your description, there encountered me.  
And he that held the reins, and he himself,  
The greybeard, sought to force me from the path.  
Then in mine angry mood, I sharply struck  
The driver-man that turned me from the way;  
Which when the elder saw, he watched for me  
As I passed by, and from the vehicle  
Smote full upon my head with the fork'd goad;  
But paid no equal price, for, with a blow  
From this right hand, smit by my staff, he fell  
Instantly rolled from out the car supine.  
I slew them every one. Now if there be  
Aught of connexion or relationship  
Betwixt yon stranger and King Latus,  
What wretch on earth was e'er so lost as I?  
Whom have the Heavens so followed with their hate?  
No house of Theban or of stranger here  
Must any more receive me, none henceforth  
Must speak to me, but drive me from the door!  
I, I have laid this curse on mine own head!  
Ay, and this arm that slew him now enfolds  
His queen. O cruel stain! Am I not vile?  
Polluted utterly! Yea, I must flee,  
And, lost to Thebè, nevermore behold  
My friends, nor tread my country, lest I meet

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

μητρὸς ζυγῆναι καὶ πατέρα κατακτανεῖν  
 Πόλυβον, ὃς ἐξέφυσε καξέθρεψέ με ;  
 ἄρ' οὐκ ἀπ' ὠμοῦ ταῦτα δαίμονός τις ἄν  
 κρίνων ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἄν ὀρθοίῃ λόγον ;  
 μὴ δῆτα, μὴ δῆτ', ὦ θεῶν ἀγνὸν σέβας,  
 ἴδοιμι ταύτην ἡμέραν, ἀλλ' ἐκ βροτῶν  
 βαίην ἄφαντος πρόσθεν ἢ τοιάνδ' ἰδεῖν  
 κηλίδ' ἐμαυτῷ συμφορᾶς ἀφιγμένην.

830

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμῖν μὲν, ὦναξ, ταῦτ' ὀκνήρ'· ἕως δ' ἄν οὖν  
 πρὸς τοῦ παρόντος ἐκμάθῃς, ἔχ' ἐλπίδα.

835

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ μὴν τοσοῦτόν γ' ἐστὶ μοι τῆς ἐλπίδος,  
 τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν βοτῆρα προσμείναι μόνον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πεφασμένου δὲ τίς ποθ' ἢ προθυμία ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἐγὼ διδάξω σ'· ἦν γὰρ εὐρεθῆ λέγων  
 σοὶ ταῦτ', ἔγωγ' ἄν ἐκπεφευγοίην πάθος.

840

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ποῖον δέ μου περισσὸν ἤκουσας λόγον ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ληστὰς ἔφασκες αὐτὸν ἄνδρας ἐννέπειν  
 ὥς νιν κατακτείναιεν. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἔτι  
 λέξει τὸν αὐτὸν ἀριθμόν, οὐκ ἐγὼ 'κτανον·

KING OEDIPUS.

In marriage mine own mother, and bring low  
The head that gave me life and reared me up,  
My father, Polybus. Ah! right were he  
Who should declare some god of cruel mood  
Hath sent this trouble on my soul. Ye powers,  
Worshipped in holiness, ne'er may I see  
That day, but perish from the sight of men,  
Ere such a brand be printed on my name!

CHORUS.

We share thy fears, O king: yet lose not hope,  
Till thou hast heard the man who saw the deed.

OEDIPUS.

Yea, that is all I still have left of hope,  
To bide the coming of the shepherd-man.

JOCASTA.

What eager thought attends his presence here?

OEDIPUS.

I'll tell thee. Should his speech accord with thine,  
My life stands clear from this calamity.

JOCASTA.

What word of mine agreed not with the scene?

OEDIPUS.

You said he spake of robbers in a band  
As having slain him. Now if he shall still  
Persist in the same number, I am free.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

οὐ γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν εἰς γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἴσος· 845  
 εἰ δ' ἄνδρ' ἐν οἰόζωνον ἀυδήσει, σαφῶς  
 τοῦτ' ἐστὶν ἤδη τούργον εἰς ἐμὲ ῥέπον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ' ὡς φανέν γε τούπος ᾧδ' ἐπίστασο,  
 κούκ ἔστιν αὐτῷ τοῦτό γ' ἐκβαλεῖν πάλιν·  
 πόλις γὰρ ἤκουσ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνη, τάδε. 850  
 εἰ δ' οὖν τι κάκτρέποιτο τοῦ πρόσθεν λόγου,  
 οὔτοι ποτ', ὦναξ, τόν γε Λαίτου φόνον  
 φανεῖ δικαίως ὀρθόν, ὅν γε Λοξίας  
 διεῖπε χρῆναι παιδὸς ἐξ ἐμοῦ θανεῖν.  
 καίτοι νιν οὐ κείνός γ' ὁ δύστηνός ποτε 855  
 κατέκταν', ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πύριθην ὤλετο.  
 ὥστ' οὐχὶ μαντείας γ' ἂν οὔτε τῆδ' ἐγὼ  
 βλέψαιμ' ἂν οὔνεκ' οὔτε τῆδ' ἂν ὕστερον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καλῶς νομίζεις. ἀλλ' ὅμως τὸν ἐργάτην  
 πέμψον τινὰ στελοῦντα μηδὲ τοῦτ' ἀφῆς. 860

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πέμψω ταχύνας· ἀλλ' ἴωμεν ἐς δόμους.  
 οὐδὲν γὰρ ἂν πράξαιμ' ἂν ὧν οὐ σοὶ φίλον.

[Exeunt JOCASTA et ŒDIPUS.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. α.

εἴ μοι ξυνεΐή φέρουσι μοῖρα τὰν εὔσεπτον ἀγνείαν λόγων  
 ἔργων τε πάντων, ὧν νόμοι πρόκεινται 865  
 ὑψίποδες, οὐρανία

KING OEDIPUS.

One man and many cannot be the same.  
But if he tell of one lone traveller,  
Then, unavoidably, this guilt is mine.

JOCASTA.

So 'twas given out by him, be sure of that.  
He cannot take it back. Not only I  
But all the people heard him speak it so.  
And should he swerve in aught from his first tale,  
He ne'er will show the murder of the king  
Rightly accordant with the oracle.  
For Phoebus said expressly he should die  
By him whom I brought forth. But that poor babe  
Ne'er slew his sire, but perished long before.  
And for my part, for word of prophecy  
I ne'er will look this way nor that again.

OEDIPUS.

Wisely resolved. But still send one to fetch  
The labouring man, and be not slack in this.

JOCASTA.

I will, and quickly too. Go we within,  
I will do nought but what may pleasure thee.

[JOCASTA and OEDIPUS go within.]

CHORUS.

I. 1.

Deep in my life, by fate impressed,  
Let holiness of word and action rest  
And sinless thought, by those Eternal Laws  
Controll'd, whose being Heaven alone did cause,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

αἰθέρι τεκνωθέντες, ὧν Ὀλυμπος  
 πατὴρ μόνος, οὐδέ νιν θνατὰ φύσις ἀνέρων  
 ἔτικτεν, οὐδὲ μή ποτε λάθα κατακοιμίση· 870  
 μέγας ἐν τούτοις θεός, οὐδὲ γηράσκει.

ἀντ. α.

ἕβρις φυτεύει τύραννον· ἕβρις, εἰ πολλῶν ὑπερπλησθῆ  
 μάταν, 875  
 ἂ μὴ ἴπικαιρα μηδὲ συμφέροντα,  
 ἀκρότατον εἰσαναβᾶσ'  
 ἀπότομον ὄρουσεν εἰς ἀνάγκαν,  
 ἔνθ' οὐ ποδὶ χρησίμῳ χρῆται. τὸ καλῶς δ' ἔχον  
 πόλει πάλαισμα μήποτε λύσαι θεὸν αἰτούμαι. 880  
 θεὸν οὐ λήξω ποτὲ προστάταν ἴσχων.

στρ. β'.

εἰ δέ τις ὑπέροπτα χερσὶν  
 ἢ λόγῳ πορεύεται,  
 Δίκας ἀφόβητος οὐδὲ 885  
 δαιμόνων ἔδη σέβων,  
 κακά νιν ἔλοιτο μοῖρα,  
 δυσπότημον χάριν χλιδᾶς,  
 εἰ μὴ τὸ κέρδος κερδανεῖ δικαίως  
 καὶ τῶν ἀσέπτων ἔρξεται, 890  
 ἢ τῶν ἀθίκτων ἔξεται ματάζων.  
 τίς ἔτι ποτ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἀνὴρ θυμῶν βέλη  
 εὐξεται ψυχᾶς ἀμύνειν;  
 εἰ γὰρ αἱ τοιαῖδε πρῴξεις τίμιαι, 895  
 τί δεῖ με χορεύειν;



KING OEDIPUS.

Nor have they drawn their birth  
From mortal sires of Earth,  
But tread the loftiest Ether, whence they came.  
Ne'er shall oblivion tame  
Their wakeful spirit; mighty is the power  
Of God in these, nor knows the enfeebling hour.

I. 2.

From full-blown pride the tyrant springs.  
Pride, when 'tis feasted over-much on things  
Timeless and all unmeet, to topmost height  
Soars madly, and then sinks to sudden night,  
Midst foot-perplexing shocks  
Of adamantine rocks,  
Prepared for stumbling mortals by dark fate.  
But to uphold the State  
With help of God let men not cease to strive.  
I'll own God my protector while I live.

II. 1.

Who walks disdainfully with hand or tongue,  
Not fearing acts of wrong,  
Nor reverencing each temple's holy shrine?  
A horrid fate be thine,  
For thine abandoned greed,  
Who seekest gain beyond thy rightful meed,  
Nor sparest things divine,  
And in thy madness touchest things accurst.  
Who, when such crimes have burst,  
Can look for shelter from the wrathful shower?  
If such a spirit be in power,  
And gilded with preferment still advance,  
What means my service in the sacred dance?

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ἀντ. β'.

οὐκέτι τὸν ἄθικτον εἶμι  
 γὰς ἐπ' ὀμφαλὸν σέβων,  
 οὐδ' ἐς τὸν Ἀβαῖσι ναόν,  
 οὐδὲ τὰν Ὀλυμπίαν, 900  
 εἰ μὴ τάδε χειρόδεικτα  
 πᾶσιν ἀρμόσει βροτοῖς.

ἀλλ', ὦ κρατύνων, εἴπερ ὄρθ' ἀκούεις,  
 Ζεῦ, πάντ' ἀνάσσω, μὴ λάθοι  
 σε τῖν τε σὰν ἀθύνατον αἰὲν ἀρχάν. 905

φθίνοντα γὰρ Πυθόχρηστα Δαΐτου  
 θέσφατ' ἐξαιρούσιν ἤδη,  
 κούδαμου τιμαῖς Ἀπόλλων ἐμφανής·  
 ἔρρει δὲ τὰ θεῖα. 910

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

χώρας ἄνακτες, δόξα μοι παρεστάθη  
 ναοὺς ἰκέσθαι δαιμόνων, τάδ' ἐν χεροῖν  
 στέφη λαβούση κάπιθυμιάματα. [Introit.  
 ἴψου γὰρ αἴρει θυμὸν Οἰδίπους ἄγαν  
 λύπαισι παντοίαισιν· οὐδ' ὅποι' ἀνὴρ 915  
 ἔννουσ τὰ καινὰ τοῖς πάλαι τεκμαίρεται,  
 ἀλλ' ἔστι τοῦ λέγοντος, εἰ φόβους λέγῃ.  
 ὄτ' οὖν παραινῶσ' οὐδὲν ἐς πλεόν ποιῶ,  
 πρὸς σ', ὦ Λύκει' Ἀπολλων, ἄγχιστος γὰρ εἶ,  
 ἰκέτις ἀφίγμαι τοῖσδε σὺν κατεύγμασιν, 920  
 ὅπως λύσιν τιν' ἡμῖν εὐαγῆ πόρῃς·  
 ὡς νῦν ὀκνοῦμεν πάντες ἐκπεπληγμένοι  
 κεῖνον βλέποντες ὡς κυβερνήτην νεώς.

KING OEDIPUS.

II. 2.

No more I'll worship at earth's central seat,  
Nor Abae's altar greet,  
Nor bow before Olympia's brilliant lord,  
Unless for every mind  
This word fulfilment find,  
The event and prophecy in clear accord.  
If rightly we invoke  
Thy name, immortal ruler, mightiest Jove,  
Let not these courses prove  
Unvisited by thine eternal stroke.  
All heavenly sanctities are broke:  
The oracles to Laïus given of old  
Vanish in scorn, and Phoebus' fear is cold.

JOCASTA.

[*Enters.*]

Princes of Thebes, it came into my mind  
To stand before the holy altars here  
With frankincense and garlands. For the king,  
Betossed with fantasy, still runs his soul  
On wildest seas, nor, like a man whose thoughts  
Keep measure, tries things present by the past.  
Each tongue possesses him that harps on fear.  
Then, since my comforts do no good at all,  
To thee, for thou art nearest, Lycian god,  
I bring my supplication with full hand,  
To bid thee find for us some pure release.  
For seeing him, our captain, in distress,  
Like shipmen, we are all amazed with dread.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἄρ' ἂν παρ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, μάθοιμ' ὅπου  
τὰ τοῦ τυράννου δώματ' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου ;  
μάλιστα δ' αὐτὸν εἶπατ', εἰ κάτισθ' ὅπου.

[Introit.

925

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στέγαι μὲν αἶδε, καὐτὸς ἔνδον, ὦ ξένε·  
γυνὴ δὲ μήτηρ ἦδε τῶν κείνου τέκνων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὀλβία τε καὶ ξὺν ὀλβίοις αἰεὶ  
γένουτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὔσα παντελῆς δάμαρ.

930

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

αὐτῶς δὲ καὶ σύ γ', ὦ ξέν· ἄξιός γάρ εἰ  
τῆς εὐπεείας οὔνεκ'. ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου  
χρήζων ἀφίξαι χῶ τι σημήναι θέλων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀγαθὰ δόμοις τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῷ, γύναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα ; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφιγμένος ;

935

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου. τὸ δ' ἔπος οὔξερῶ τάχα,  
ἦδοιο μὲν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἂν, ἀσχάλλοις δ' ἴσως.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἔστι ; ποῖαν δύναμιν ὧδ' ἔχει διπλήν ;

KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.

*[Enters at the left, coming from Corinth.]*

Can you inform me, strangers, where to find  
The mansions of the sovereign Oedipus?  
Or better, where he may himself be seen?

CHORUS.

These are the roofs you seek, and he, our lord,  
Is there within: and, stranger, thou behold'st  
The proud queen-mother of his princely race.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Happy, and with the happy may she live,  
High-blest copartner of his royal state.

JOCASTA.

Be thou, too, blest, kind sir! Thy gracious tongue  
Deserves no less. But tell me, what desire  
You urge, or what intelligence you bring?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Good tidings for thy house and husband, queen.

JOCASTA.

What are they? who hath sent you to our hall?

FIRST MESSENGER.

From Corinth came I, and will quickly tell  
What sure will please you, though perchance 'twill grieve.

JOCASTA.

What news can strike us with this twofold power?

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τύραννον αὐτὸν οὐπιχώριοι χθονὸς  
τῆς Ἰσθμίας στήσουσιν, ὡς ἠὺδᾶτ' ἐκεῖ.

940

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ; οὐχ ὁ πρέσβυς Πόλυβος ἐγκρατῆς ἔτι ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ νῦν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πῶς εἶπας ; ἢ τέθνηκε Πόλυβος, ὦ γέρον ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ μὴ λέγω τᾶληθές, ἀξιῶ θανεῖν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὦ πρόσπολ', οὐχὶ δεσπότη τὰδ' ὡς τάχος  
μολοῦσα λέξεις ; ὦ θεῶν μαντεύματα,  
ἔν' ἐστέ· τοῦτον Οἰδίπους πάλαι τρέμων  
τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔφευγε μὴ κτάνοι, καὶ νῦν ὄδε  
πρὸς τῆς τύχης ὄλωλεν οὐδὲ τοῦδ' ἕπο.

945

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὦ φίλτατον γυναικὸς Ἰοκάστης κάρα, [Introit.  
τί μ' ἐξεπέμψω δεῦρο τῶνδε δωμάτων ;

950

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἄκουε τὰνδρὸς τοῦδε, καὶ σκόπει κλύων  
τὰ σέμν' ἔν' ἤκει τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεύματα.

KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.

'Twas rumoured that the natives of the land  
Of Corinth were about to make him king.

JOCASTA.

What? Is old Polybus not still in power?

FIRST MESSENGER.

The power of death confines him in the grave.

JOCASTA.

Hold there. How say you? Polybus in his grave?

FIRST MESSENGER.

May I die for him if I speak not true.

JOCASTA.

Quick, Cloë, run and tell this to my lord.  
Voices of prophecy! where are ye now?  
Long time hath Oedipus with trembling fear  
Avoided Polybus, lest he should slay him,  
Who now lies slain by fortune, not by him.

OEDIPUS.

[*Enters.*]

Jocasta, my dear queen, why didst thou send  
To bring me hither from our palace-halls?

JOCASTA.

List to that man, and, when you hear him, judge  
The ending of the dreadful prophecy.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος δὲ τίς ποτ' ἐστὶ καὶ τί μοι λέγει;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, πατέρα τὸν σὸν ἀγγελῶν  
ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντα Πόλυβον, ἀλλ' ὀλωλότα.

955

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί φῆς, ξέν'; αὐτός μοι σὺ σημήνας γενοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ τοῦτο πρῶτον δεῖ μ' ἀπαγγεῖλαι σαφῶς,  
εὖ ἴσθ' ἐκείνον θανάσιμον βεβηκότα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πότερα δόλοισιν, ἢ νόσου ξυναλλαγῆ;

960

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

σμικρὰ παλαιὰ σώματ' εὐνάζει ροπή.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

νόσοις ὁ τλήμων, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἔφθιτο.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

καὶ τῷ μακρῷ γε συμμετρούμενος χρόνῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

φεῦ φεῦ, τί δῆτ' ἄν, ᾧ γύναι, σκοποῖτό τις  
τὴν Πυθόμαντιν ἐστίαν, ἢ τοὺς ἄνω  
κλάζοντας ὄρνις, ὧν ὑφηγητῶν ἐγὼ  
κτανεῖν ἔμελλον πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν; ὁ δὲ θανῶν

965



KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Who is the man, and what his message here?

JOCASTA.

He comes from Corinth, to announce to thee  
That Polybus, thy father, is no more.

OEDIPUS.

What, stranger? Let me hear it from thy mouth.

FIRST MESSENGER.

If my first duty is to make this clear,  
Be without doubt that he is dead and gone.

OEDIPUS.

By sickness coming o'er him, or by guile?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Light force subdues to rest the aged frame.

OEDIPUS.

It seems he died of sickness then, poor soul!

FIRST MESSENGER.

By sickness and the number of his years.

OEDIPUS.

Ah! my Jocasta, who again will heed  
The Pythian hearth oracular, and birds  
Screaming in air, blind guides! that would have given  
My father's murder to mine hand; but he

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

κέυθει κάτω δὴ γῆς· ἐγὼ δ' ὄδ' ἐνθάδε  
 ἄψαυστος ἔγχους, εἴ τι μὴ τῶμῳ φόβῳ  
 κατέφθιθ'· οὕτω δ' ἂν θανὼν εἴη 'ξ ἔμοῦ. 970  
 τὰ δ' οὖν παρόντα συλλαβῶν θεσπίσματα  
 κείται παρ' Ἀιδῆ Πόλυβος ἄξι' οὐδενός.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὐκουν ἐγὼ σοι ταῦτα προύλεγον πάλαι·

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἠῦδας· ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ φόβῳ παρηγόμεν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μὴ νῦν ἔτ' αὐτῶν μηδὲν ἐς θυμὸν βάλῃς. 975

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ πῶς τὸ μητρὸς λέκτρον οὐκ ὀκνεῖν με δεῖ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἂν φοβοῖτ' ἄνθρωπος, ᾧ τὰ τῆς τύχης  
 κρατεῖ, πρόνοια δ' ἐστὶν οὐδενὸς σαφής·  
 εἰκὴ κράτιστον ζῆν, ὅπως δύναιτό τις.  
 σὺ δ' εἰς τὰ μητρὸς μὴ φοβοῦ νυμφεύματα· 980  
 πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη καὶ ὀνειράσι βροτῶν  
 μητρὶ ξυνευάσθησαν. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὅτῳ  
 παρ' οὐδέν ἐστι, ῥᾶστα τὸν βίον φέρει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καλῶς ἅπαντα ταῦτ' ἂν ἐξείρητό σοι,  
 εἰ μὴ 'κύρει ζῶσ' ἢ τεκοῦσα· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ  
 ζῆ, πᾶσ' ἀνάγκη, κεῖ καλῶς λέγεις, ὀκνεῖν. 985

KING OEDIPUS.

Hides underground in death, while I stand here  
Harmless and weaponless : unless, perchance,  
My absence killed him, so he may have died  
Through me. But be that as it may, the grave,  
That covers Polybus from sight, hath closed  
One voice of prophecy, worth nothing now.

JOCASTA.

Did I not tell you so, long since?

OEDIPUS.

You did.

But I was drawn to error by my fear.

JOCASTA.

Now cast it altogether out of mind.

OEDIPUS.

Must I not fear my mother's marriage-bed?

JOCASTA.

Why should man fear? seeing his course is ruled  
By fortune, and he nothing can foreknow?  
'Tis wise to live at will as best one may.  
Then fear not thou thy mother's nuptial.  
Many a man ere now in dreams hath lain  
With her who bare him. He hath easiest life  
Who with such omens troubleth not his mind.

OEDIPUS.

All this would be well spoken, were not she  
Alive that gave me birth. But since she lives,  
Though you speak well, yet have I cause for fear.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ μὴν μέγας γ' ὀφθαλμὸς οἱ πατρὸς τάφοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μέγας, ξυνίημ'· ἀλλὰ τῆς ζώσης φόβος.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ποιίας δὲ καὶ γυναικὸς ἐκφοβεῖσθ' ὕπερ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

Μερόπης, γεραιέ, Πόλυβος ἤς ᾔκει μεῖτα.

990

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τί δ' ἔστ' ἐκείνης ὑμῖν ἐς φόβον φέρον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

θειλάτον μάντευμα δεινόν, ᾧ ξένε.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἦ ῥητόν; ἦ οὐχὶ θεμιτὸν ἄλλον εἰδέναι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μάλιστα γ'· εἶπε γάρ με Δοξίας ποτὲ  
χρῆναι μιγῆναι μητρὶ τήμαυτοῦ, τό τε  
πατρῶν αἶμα χερσὶ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἐλείν.  
ὦν οὐνεχ' ἠ Κόρινθος ἐξ ἐμοῦ πάλαι  
μακρὰν ἀπωκεῖτ'· εὐτυχῶς μὲν, ἀλλ' ὅμως  
τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὄμμαθ' ἠδιστον βλέπειν.

995

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἦ γὰρ τὰδ' ὀκνῶν κείθεν ἦσθ' ἀπόπτολις;

1000

KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.

Your father's burial might enlighten you.

OEDIPUS.

It doth. But I am darkened by a life.

FIRST MESSENGER.

What lady is the subject of your fears?

OEDIPUS.

Merope, aged friend, who lived with Polybus.

FIRST MESSENGER.

What touching her inclineth you to fear?

OEDIPUS.

A heaven-sent oracle of dreadful note.

FIRST MESSENGER.

May it be told, or must no stranger know?

OEDIPUS.

Surely it may. Word came from Loxias once  
That I must know my mother's shame, and shed  
With these my hands mine own true father's blood.  
Wherefore long since my home hath been removed  
Far from Corinthia: not unhappily;  
But still our parents' eyes are sweet to see.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Did fear of this make you so long an exile?

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πατρός τε χρήζων μὴ φονεὺς εἶναι, γέρον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τί δῆτ' ἐγὼ οὐχὶ τοῦδε τοῦ φόβου σ', ἄναξ,  
ἐπεὶ ἔπερ εὐνοὺς ἦλθον, ἐξελυσάμην;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν χάριν γ' ἂν ἀξίαν λάβοις ἐμοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν μάλιστα τοῦτ' ἀφικόμην, ὅπως  
σοῦ πρὸς δόμους ἐλθόντος εὖ πράξαιμί τι.

1005

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐποτ' εἶμι τοῖς φυτεύσασίν γ' ὀμοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦ παῖ, καλῶς εἰ δῆλος οὐκ εἰδὼς τί δρᾶς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πῶς, ὦ γεραιέ; πρὸς θεῶν διδασκέ με.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ τῶνδε φεύγεις οὐνεκ' εἰς οἴκους μολεῖν.

1010

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ταρβῶ γε μὴ μοι Φοῖβος ἐξέλθῃ σαφής.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἢ μὴ μίασμα τῶν φυτευσάντων λάβῃς;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

τοῦτ' αὐτό, πρέσβυ, τοῦτό μ' εἰσαεὶ φοβεῖ.

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Horror of this and parricide, old friend.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Since friendly was my coming, I would fain  
Free thee from this anxiety, my king.

OEDIPUS.

Our gratitude would well reward thy love.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Hope of reward from thee in thy return  
Was the chief motive of my coming hither.

OEDIPUS.

Return? Not to my parents' dwelling-place.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Son, 'tis too clear, you know not what you do.

OEDIPUS.

Why, aged sir? For Heaven's sake teach me this.

FIRST MESSENGER.

If for these reasons you avoid your home.

OEDIPUS.

The fear torments me, Phoebus may prove true.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Lest from your parents you receive a stain?

OEDIPUS.

That is the life-long torture of my soul.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἄρ' οἶσθα δῆτα πρὸς δίκης οὐδὲν τρέμων;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς δ' οὐχί, παῖς γ' εἰ τῶνδε γεννητῶν ἔφυν; 1015

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὀθούνεκ' ἦν σοι Πόλυβος οὐδὲν ἐν γένει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ Πόλυβος ἐξέφυσέ με;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐ μᾶλλον οὐδὲν τοῦδε τάνδρός, ἀλλ' ἴσον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ πῶς ὁ φύσας ἐξ ἴσου τῷ μηδενί;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐ σ' ἐγείνατ' οὐτ' ἐκείνος οὐτ' ἐγώ. 1020

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἀντὶ τοῦ δὴ παῖδά μ' ὠνομάζετο;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

δῶρόν ποτ', ἴσθι, τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν λαβῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καθ' ᾧδ' ἀπ' ἄλλης χειρὸς ἔστερξεν μέγα;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἦ γὰρ πρὶν αὐτὸν ἐξέπεισ' ἀπαιδία.



KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Will you be certified your fears are groundless?

OEDIPUS.

How groundless, if I am my parents' child?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Because with Polybus thou hadst no kin.

OEDIPUS.

Why? Was not he the author of my life?

FIRST MESSENGER.

As much as I am, and no more than I.

OEDIPUS.

How can my father be no more to me  
Than who is nothing?

FIRST MESSENGER.

In begetting thee  
Nor I nor he had any part at all.

OEDIPUS.

Why then did he declare me for his son?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Because he took thee once a gift from me.

OEDIPUS.

Was all that love unto a foundling shown?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Heirless affection so inclined his heart.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

σύ δ' ἐμπολήσας, ἦ τεκῶν μ' αὐτῷ δίδως; 1025

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εὐρῶν ναπαίαις ἐν Κιθαιρώνος πτυχαῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ῥόδοιπόρεις δὲ πρὸς τί τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐνταῦθ' ὀρεῖοις ποιμνίοις ἐπεστάτου.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποιμῆν γὰρ ἦσθα καπὶ θητεία πλάνης;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

σοῦ δ', ὦ τέκνον, σωτήρ γε τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ. 1030

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τί δ' ἄλγος ἴσχοντ' ἐν κακοῖς με λαμβάνεις;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ποδῶν ἂν ἄρθρα μαρτυρήσειεν τὰ σά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἴμοι, τί τοῦτ' ἀρχαῖον ἐννέπεις κακόν;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

λύω σ' ἔχοντα διατόρους ποδοῖν ἀκμάς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

δεινόν γ' ὄνειδος σπαργάνων ἀνειλόμην. 1035

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

You gave me to him then? your own, or bought?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Found in Cithaeron's hollow wilderness.

OEDIPUS.

What led your travelling footstep to that ground?

FIRST MESSENGER.

The flocks I tended grazed the mountain there.

OEDIPUS.

A shepherd wast thou, and a wandering hind?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Whatever else, my son, thy saviour then.

OEDIPUS.

From what disaster that you saw me rue?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Thine instep bears memorial of that pain.

OEDIPUS.

Oh! what old evil will thy words disclose?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Your feet were pierced till I unfastened them.

OEDIPUS.

Sad outrage in the bands of infancy!

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὥστ' ὠνομάσθης ἐκ τύχης ταύτης ὅς εἶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ πρὸς θεῶν, πρὸς μητρός, ἢ πατρός, φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ'· ὁ δὸς δὲ ταύτ' ἐμοῦ λῶον φρονεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ γὰρ παρ' ἄλλου μ' ἔλαβες οὐδ' αὐτὸς τυχών;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ποιμὴν ἄλλος ἐκδίδωσί μοι.

1040

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τίς οὗτος; ἢ κάτοισθα δηλώσαι λόγῳ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τῶν Δαΐου δήπου τις ὠνομάζετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ τοῦ τυράννου τῆσδε γῆς πάλαι ποτέ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

μάλιστα· τούτου τάνδρὸς οὗτος ἦν βοτήρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ κάστ' ἔτι ζῶν οὗτος, ὥστ' ἰδεῖν ἐμέ;

1045

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὕμεις γ' ἄριστ' εἰδεῖτ' ἂν οὐπιχώριαι.

KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.

~~From this adventure thou hast ta'en thy name.~~

OEDIPUS.

Ah! tell me, did my father do this thing,  
Or was't my mother?

FIRST MESSENGER.

That I dare not say.  
He knoweth best who gave thee to my hand.

OEDIPUS.

Another gave me, then? You did not find me?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Another herdsman passed thee on to me.

OEDIPUS.

Can you describe him? Tell us what you know.

FIRST MESSENGER.

He was called one of Laïus' people, sure.

OEDIPUS.

Of Laïus once the sovereign of this land?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Yea, surely, he was the shepherd of his flock.

OEDIPUS.

And is he still alive for me to see?

FIRST MESSENGER.

You Thebans are most likely to know that.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἔστιν τις ὑμῶν τῶν παρεστώτων πέλας,  
ὅστις κάτοιδε τὸν βοτῆρ', ὃν ἐννέπει,  
εἴτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἀγρῶν εἴτε κύνθ' εἰσιδῶν;  
σημήναθ', ὡς ὁ καιρὸς εὐρήσθαι τάδε.

1050

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶμαι μὲν οὐδέν' ἄλλον ἢ τὸν ἐξ ἀγρῶν,  
ὃν κῆμάτευες πρόσθεν εἰσιδεῖν· ἀτὰρ  
ἦδ' ἂν τὰδ' οὐχ ἦκιστ' ἂν Ἰοκάστη λέγοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

γύναι, νοεῖς ἐκεῖνον, ὄντιν' ἀρτίως  
μολεῖν ἐφίεμεσθα; τόνδ' οὗτος λέγει;

1055

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ὄντιν' εἶπε; μηδὲν ἐντραπήης. τὰ δὲ  
ῥηθέντα βούλου μηδὲ μεμνησθαι μάτην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο τοῦθ', ὅπως ἐγὼ λαβὼν  
σημεῖα τοιαῦτ' οὐ φανῶ τοῦμὸν γένος.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴπερ τι τοῦ σαυτοῦ βίου  
κῆδει, ματεύσης τοῦθ'· ἄλις νοσοῦσ' ἐγώ.

1060

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

θάρσει. σὺ μὲν γὰρ οὐδ' εἰς τρίτης ἐγὼ  
μητρὸς φανῶ τρίδουλος, ἐκφανεῖ κακῆ.

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Say, any one of you in presence here,  
If you can tell me of the swain he speaks of,  
In town or country having known of him?  
The time for this discovery is full come.

CHORUS.

Methinks it is no other than the peasant  
Whom thou didst seek before to see: but this  
Could best be told by Queen Jocasta there.

OEDIPUS.

We lately urged that one should come, my queen.  
Know you, is this of whom he speaks the same?

JOCASTA.

What matter who? Regard not, nor desire  
Even vainly to remember aught he saith.

OEDIPUS.

When I have found such tokens of my birth,  
I must disclose it.

JOCASTA.

As you love your life,  
By Heaven I beg you, search no further here.  
The sickness in my bosom is enough.

OEDIPUS.

Nay, never fear. Were I proved thrice a slave  
And waif of bondwomen, you still are noble.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὄμως πιθοῦ μοι, λίσσομαι· μὴ δρᾶ τάδε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην μὴ οὐ τάδ' ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς. 1065

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ μὴν φρονουῦσά γ' εὖ τὰ λῶστά σοι λέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὰ λῶστα τοίνυν ταυτά μ' ἀλγύνει πάλαι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὦ δύσποτμ', εἴθε μήποτε γυνοίης ὅς εἶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἄξει τις ἐλθὼν δεῦρο τὸν βοτήρᾳ μοι;  
ταύτην δ' ἔατε πλουσίῳ χαίρειν γένει. 1070

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἰοῦ ἰοῦ, δύστηνε· τοῦτο γάρ σ' ἔχω  
μόνον προσειπεῖν, ἄλλο δ' οὔποθ' ὕστερον. [Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τί ποτε βέβηκεν, Οἰδίπους, ὑπ' ἀγρίας  
ἄξασα λύπης ἢ γυνῆ; δέδοιχ' ὅπως  
μὴ 'κ τῆς σιωπῆς τῆσδ' ἀναρρήξει κακά. 1075

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὅποια χρῆζει ρηγνύτω· τοῦμὸν δ' ἐγώ,  
κεῖ σμικρὸν ἔστι, σπέρμ' ἰδεῖν βουλήσομαι.



KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.

Yet hearken, I implore you: do not so.

OEDIPUS.

I cannot hear you. I must know this out.

JOCASTA.

With clear perception I advise the best.

OEDIPUS.

This "best" of yours is ever mine annoy.

JOCASTA.

Wretched one, never may you know your birth.

OEDIPUS.

Will some one go and bring the herdsman hither?  
Leave her to revel in her lordly line.

JOCASTA.

O horrible! O lost one! This alone  
I speak to thee, and no word more for ever.

*[Rushes within.]*

CHORUS.

Oedipus, wherefore is Jocasta gone,  
Driven madly by wild grief? I needs must fear  
Lest from this silence she make sorrows spring.

OEDIPUS.

Let her! Yet I will choose to know my birth  
Though from an humble seed. Her woman's pride

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

αὕτη δ' ἴσως, φρονεῖ γὰρ ὡς γυνὴ μέγα,  
 τὴν δυσγένειαν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰσχύνεται.  
 ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτὸν παῖδα τῆς Τύχης νέμων 1080  
 τῆς εὖ διδούσης οὐκ ἀτιμασθήσομαι.  
 τῆς γὰρ πέφυκα μητρός· οἱ δὲ συγγενεῖς  
 μῆνές με μικρὸν καὶ μέγαν διώρισαν.  
 τοιόσδε δ' ἐκφύς οὐκ ἂν ἐξέλθοιμ' ἔτι  
 ποτ' ἄλλος, ὥστε μὴ κμαθεῖν τοῦμὸν γένος. 1085

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.

εἴπερ ἐγὼ μάντις εἰμὶ καὶ κατὰ γνώμαν ἴδρις,  
 οὐ τὸν Ὀλυμπον ἀπείρων, ὦ Κιθαιρών,  
 οὐκ ἔση τὰν αὔριον πανσέληνον, μὴ οὐ σέ γε 1090  
 καὶ πατριώταν Οἰδίπου  
 καὶ τροφὸν καὶ ματέρ' αὔξειν,  
 καὶ χορεύεσθαι πρὸς ἡμῶν, ὡς ἐπίηρα φέροντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς  
 τυράννοις. 1095  
 ἰήϊε Φοῖβε, σοὶ δὲ  
 ταυτ' ἀρέστ' εἴη.

ἀντ.

τίς σε, τέκνον, τίς σ' ἔτικτε τᾶν μακραίωνων κορᾶν,  
 Πανὸς ὀρεσσιβάτα πατρὸς πελασθείς,  
 ἢ σέ γ' εὐνάτειρά τις Δοξίου; τῷ γὰρ πλάκες 1100  
 ἀγρόνομοι πᾶσαι φίλαι·  
 εἴθ' ὁ Κυλλάνας ἀνάσσων,  
 εἴθ' ὁ Βακχείος θεὸς ναίων ἐπ' ἄκρων ὀρέων εὖρημα δέξατ'  
 ἔκ του 1105

KING OEDIPUS.

Is shamed, it may be, by my lowliness.  
But I, whilst I account myself the son  
Of prospering fortune, ne'er will be disgraced.  
For she is my true mother: and the months  
Coheirs with me of the same father Time  
Have marked my lowness and mine exaltation.  
So born, so nurtured, I can fear no change,  
That I need shrink to delve this to the root.

CHORUS.

I. 1.

If I wield a prophet's might,  
Or have sense to search aright,  
Cithaeron, when to-night the moon rides high,  
Loud thy praise shall be confessed,  
How upon thy rugged breast,  
Thou, mighty mother, nursedst tenderly  
Great Oedipus, and gav'st his being room  
Within thy spacious home.  
Yea, we will dance and sing  
Thy glory for thy friendship to our king.  
Phoebus, unto thee we cry,  
Be this pleasing in thine eye!

I. 2.

Who, my child, hath given thee birth  
Of the long-lived nymphs of earth?  
Say, was she clasped by mountain-roving Faun,  
Or beguiled she one sweet hour  
With Apollo in her bower,  
Who loves to trace the wide uncultured lawn?  
Or was the ruler of Cyllenè's height  
The author of thy light?  
Or did the Bacchic god,  
Who makes the top of Helicon to nod,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

Νυμφᾶν Ἐλικωνίδων, αἷς  
πλείστα συμπαίξει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

εἰ χρή τι κάμῃ μὴ συναλλάξαντά πω, 1110  
πρέσβεις, σταθμάσθαι, τὸν βοτήρ' ὄρᾶν δοκῶ,  
ὄνπερ πάλαι ζητούμεν. ἔν τε γὰρ μακρῶ  
γῆρα ξυνάδει τῶδε τάνδρῖ σύμμετρος,  
ἄλλως τε τοὺς ἄγοντας ὥσπερ οἰκέτας  
ἔγνωκ' ἔμαυτοῦ· τῇ δ' ἐπιστήμῃ σύ μου 1115  
προύχοις τάχ' ἂν που, τὸν βοτήρ' ἰδὼν πάρος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἔγνωκα γάρ, σάφ' ἴσθι· Λαῖου γὰρ ἦν  
εἶπερ τις ἄλλος πιστὸς ὡς νομεὺς ἀνήρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

σὲ πρῶτ' ἐρωτῶ, τὸν Κορίνθιον ξένον,  
ἧ τόνδε φράζεις;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τούτου, ὄνπερ εἰσοράς. 1120

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος σύ, πρέσβυ, δεῦρό μοι φώνει βλέπων [Introit  
ὅσ' ἂν σ' ἐρωτῶ. Λαῖου ποτ' ἦσθα σύ; pastor LAII.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἧ δοῦλος οὐκ ἀνητός, ἀλλ' οἴκοι τραφεῖς.

KING OEDIPUS.

Take thee for a foundling care  
From his playmates that are there?

OEDIPUS.

If haply I, who never saw his face,  
Thebans, may guess, methinks I see the hind,  
Whose coming we have longed for. Both his age,  
Agreeing with the other's wintry locks,  
Chimes with my supposition, and the garb  
Of his conductors is well known to me  
As that of my own people. But thyself  
In perfect knowledge art my better here,  
Whose eyes have seen the herdsman in the past.

CHORUS.

I know him well, believe me. Latus  
Had no more faithful shepherd than this man.

OEDIPUS.

Corinthian friend, I first appeal to you:  
Was't he you spake of?

FIRST MESSENGER.

'Twas the man you see.

[SERVANT enters at the right, from afield.]

OEDIPUS.

Turn thine eyes hither, aged friend, and tell  
What I shall ask thee. Wast thou Latus' slave?

SERVANT.

I was, not bought, but bred within the house.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔργον μεριμνῶν ποῖον ἤ βίον τίνα ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ποιίμναις τὰ πλείστα τοῦ βίου συνειπόμην.

1125

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

χώροις μάλιστα πρὸς τίσι ξύναυλος ὢν ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἦν μὲν Κιθαιρῶν, ἦν δὲ πρόσχωρος τόπος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ' οὖν οἶσθα τῆδέ που μαθῶν ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί χρῆμα δρῶντα ; ποῖον ἄνδρα καὶ λέγεις ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τόνδ' ὃς πάρεστιν· ἢ ξυνήλλαξας τί πω ;

1130

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν ἐν τάχει μνήμης ὑπο.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

κούδέν γε θαῦμα, δέσποτ'. ἀλλ' ἐγὼ σαφῶς  
ἀγνώτ' ἀναμνήσω νιν. εἶ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι  
κάτοιδεν ἦμος τὸν Κιθαιρῶνος τόπον  
ὁ μὲν διπλοῖσι ποιμνίοις, ἐγὼ δ' ἐνὶ  
ἐπλησίαζον τῷδε τάνδρῳ τρεῖς ὄλους  
ἐξ ἦρος εἰς ἀρκτοῦρον ἐκμήνους χρόνους·

1135

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

What charge or occupation was thy care?

SERVANT.

Most of my time was spent in shepherding.

OEDIPUS.

And where didst thou inhabit with thy flock?

SERVANT.

'Twas now Cithaeron, now the neighbouring tract.

OEDIPUS.

And hadst thou there acquaintance of this man?

SERVANT.

Following what service? Who is he you mean?

OEDIPUS.

He who stands here. Say, hast thou met with him?

SERVANT.

I cannot bring him all at once to mind.

FIRST MESSENGER.

No marvel, good my lord. But I will clearly  
Wake to remembrance his long slumbering sense.  
For well I wot he knoweth of the time  
When he with his two flocks and I with one  
Beside him grazed Cithaeron's pasture wide  
Good six months' space of three successive years,  
From spring to rising of Arcturus; then

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

χειμῶνα δ' ἤδη τάμ' ἵ τ' εἰς ἔπαυλ' ἐγὼ  
ἤλαυνον οὗτός τ' εἰς τὰ Λαΐτου σταθμά.  
λέγω τι τούτων, ἢ οὐ λέγω πεπραγμένον;

1140

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

λέγεις ἀληθῆ, καίπερ ἐκ μακροῦ χρόνου.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φέρ' εἰπὲ νῦν, τότ' οἶσθα παῖδά μοι τινα  
δούς, ὡς ἐμαντῶ θρέμμα θρῆψαίμην ἐγώ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί δ' ἐστὶ — πρὸς τί τοῦτο τοῦπος ἱστορεῖς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὄδ' ἐστίν, ὦ τᾶν, κείνος ὃς τότ' ἦν νέος.

1145

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον; οὐ σιωπήσας ἔσει;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ᾶ, μὴ κόλυζε, πρέσβυ, τόνδ', ἐπεὶ τὰ σὰ  
δεῖται κολαστοῦ μάλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί δ', ὦ φέριστε δεσποτῶν, ἀμαρτάνω;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκ ἐννέπων τὸν παῖδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ.

1150

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

λέγει γὰρ εἰδὼς οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἄλλως πονεῖ.



KING OEDIPUS.

For the bleak winter-time I drove my charge  
To their own folds, he his to Larus' stalls.  
Is this the truth, or do I stray from fact ?

SERVANT.

The time is far remote. But all is true.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Well, dost remember having given me then  
A child, that I might foster him for mine ?

SERVANT.

What means this question ? Let me know thy drift.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Friend, yonder is the infant whom we knew.

SERVANT.

Confusion seize thee, and thine evil tongue !

OEDIPUS.

Check not his speech, I pray thee, for thy words  
Call more than his for chastisement, old sir.

SERVANT.

What, mighty sovereign, is mine error here ?

OEDIPUS.

Not answering about the child he asks of.

SERVANT.

He knows not what he saith. His end is vain.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

σὺ πρὸς χάριν μὲν οὐκ ἔρείς, κλαίων δ' ἔρείς.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μὴ δῆτα, πρὸς θεῶν, τὸν γέροντά μ' αἰκίση.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐχ ὡς τάχος τις τοῦδ' ἀποστρέψει χέρας;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

δύστηνος, ἀντὶ τοῦ; τί προσχρῆζων μαθεῖν;

1155

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὸν παῖδ' ἔδωκας τῶδ' ὃν οὗτος ἴστορεῖ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἔδωκ'· ὀλέσθαι δ' ὄφελον τῆδ' ἡμέρα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰς τόδ' ἤξεις μὴ λέγων γε τοῦνδικον.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

πολλῶ γε μᾶλλον, ἦν φράσω, διόλλυμαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀνὴρ ὄδ', ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐς τριβὰς ἔλα.

1160

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' εἶπον ὡς δοίην πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πόθεν λαβών; οἰκείου, ἢ ἕ ἄλλου τινός;

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Thou wilt not speak to please us, but the lash  
Will make thee speak.

SERVANT.

By all that's merciful,  
Scourge not this aged frame!

OEDIPUS.

Pinion him straight!

SERVANT.

Unhappy! wherefore? what is't you would know?

OEDIPUS.

Gave you the child he asks of to this man?

SERVANT.

I gave it him. Would I had died that hour!

OEDIPUS.

Speak rightly, or your wish will soon come true.

SERVANT.

My ruin comes the sooner, if I speak.

OEDIPUS.

You mean to keep us in suspense, I see.

SERVANT.

Not I. I said long since, "I gave the child."

OEDIPUS.

Whence? Was't your own, or from another's home?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἐμὸν μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἐδεξάμην δέ του.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τίνος πολιτῶν τῶνδε κακὰ ποίας στέγης ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, μή, δέσποθ', ἰστόρει πλέον.

1165

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὄλωλας, εἴ σε ταῦτ' ἐρήσομαι πάλιν.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τῶν Λαίου τοίνυν τις ἦν γεννημάτων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ δοῦλος, ἦ κείνου τις ἐγγενὴς γεγάσ ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οἴμοι, πρὸς αὐτῷ γ' εἰμὶ τῷ δεινῷ λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καῖγωγ' ἀκούειν· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἀκουστέον.

1170

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κείνου γέ τοι δὴ παῖς ἐκλήξεθ'· ἢ δ' ἔσω  
κάλλιστ' ἂν εἴποι σὴ γυνὴ τὰδ' ὡς ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ γὰρ δίδωσιν ἦδε σοι ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μάλιστ', ἀναξ.

KING OEDIPUS.

SERVANT.

'Twas not mine own, another gave it me.

OEDIPUS.

What Theban gave it from what house in Thebes?

SERVANT.

O, I implore thee, master, ask no more!

OEDIPUS.

You perish, if I have to ask again.

SERVANT.

The child was of the stock of Laïus.

OEDIPUS.

Slave-born, or rightly of the royal line?

SERVANT.

My lips will hardly speak the awful truth.

OEDIPUS.

My ears refuse to hear, yet hear they must.

SERVANT.

He was given out for Laïus' son: but she,  
Thy queen, within the palace, best can tell.

OEDIPUS.

How? Did she give it thee?

SERVANT.

My lord, she did.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὡς πρὸς τί χρείας ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ὡς ἀναλώσαιμί νιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τεκούσα τλήμων ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

θεσφάτων γ' ὄκνω κακῶν. 1175

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποιῶν ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κτενεῖν νιν τοὺς τεκόντας ἦν λόγος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς δῆτ' ἀφήκας τῷ γέροντι τῷδε σύ ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κατοικτίσας, ὦ δέσποθ', ὡς ἄλλην χθόνα  
δοκῶν ἀποίσειν, αὐτὸς ἔνθεν ἦν· ὁ δὲ  
κάκ' ἐς μέγιστ' ἔσωσεν. εἰ γὰρ οὗτος εἶ 1180  
ὄν φησιν οὗτος, ἴσθι δύσποτμος γεγώς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἰοὺ ἰοῦ· τὰ πάντ' ἂν ἐξήκοι σαφῆ.  
ὦ φῶς, τελευταῖόν σε προσβλέψαιμι νῦν,  
ὅστις πέφασμαι φύς τ' ἀφ' ὧν οὐ χρῆν, ξὺν οἷς τ  
οὐ χρῆν ὀμιλῶν, οὓς τέ μ' οὐκ ἔδει κτανῶν. 1185

[Exeunt.]

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

With what commission ?

SERVANT.

I was to destroy him.

OEDIPUS.

And could a mother's heart be steeled to this ?

SERVANT.

By fear of evil prophecies.

OEDIPUS.

What were they ?

SERVANT.

'Twas said the child should be his father's death.

OEDIPUS.

What then possessed thee to give up the child  
To this old man ?

SERVANT.

Pity, my sovereign lord !

Supposing he would take him far away  
Unto the land whence he was come. But he  
Preserved him to great sorrow. For if thou  
Art whom he gives thee out, be well assured  
Thou bear'st a heavy doom.

OEDIPUS.

O horrible !

Horrible ! All is known, as sunlight clear !  
O may I nevermore behold the day,  
Since proved accursèd, in my parentage,  
In those I live with, and in those I slew.

*[OEDIPUS rushes within ; the FIRST MESSENGER retires to  
the left, the SERVANT to the right.]*

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. α.

ἰὼ γενεαὶ βροτῶν,  
 ὡς ὑμᾶς ἴσα καὶ τὸ μηδὲν ζώσας ἐναριθμῶ.  
 τίς γάρ, τίς ἀνὴρ πλέον  
 τᾶς εὐδαιμονίας φέρει 1190  
 ἢ τοσοῦτον ὅσον δοκεῖν  
 καὶ δόξαντ' ἀποκλίνει;  
 τὸ σὸν τοι παρ᾿ αἰδέειγμ' ἔχων,  
 τὸν σὸν δαίμονα, τὸν σὸν, ὦ τλάμων' Οἰδιπόδα, βροτῶν 1195  
 οὐδὲν μακαρίζω·

ἀντ. α.

ὅστις καθ' ὑπερβολὰν  
 τοξεύσας ἐκράτησας τοῦ πάντ' εὐδαίμονος ὄλβον,  
 ὦ Ζεῦ, κατὰ μὲν φθίσας  
 τὰν γαμφώνυχα παρθένον  
 χρησμοφδόν· θανάτων δ' ἐμᾶ 1200  
 χώρα πύργος ἀνέστας·  
 ἐξ οὗ καὶ βασιλεὺς καλεῖ  
 ἐμός, καὶ τὰ μέγιστ' ἐτιμάθης, ταῖς μεγάλαισιν ἐν  
 Θήβαισιν ἀνάστων.

στρ. β'.

τανῦν δ' ἀκούειν τίς ἀθλιώτερος;  
 τίς ἄταις ἐν ἀγρίαις, τίς ἐν πόνοις 1205  
 ξύννοικος ἀλλαγᾶ βίου;  
 ἰὼ κλεινὸν Οἰδίπου κάρα,  
 ὦ μέγας λιμὴν  
 αὐτὸς ἤρκεσεν  
 παιδὶ καὶ πατρὶ θαλαμηπόλῳ πεσεῖν,



KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

O tribes of living men,  
How nothing-worth I count you while ye stand!  
For who of all the train  
Draws more of happiness into his hand  
Than to seem bright, and, seeming, fade in gloom?  
O Oedipus, in thine all-hapless doom  
Too clearly 'tis expressed  
Nought in mortality is blest.  
Thou, that with peerless might did hit  
The centre, and destroy by wit  
The taloned songstress, as a tower  
Saving my land from death's dark power,  
And winning for thyself the name  
Of Thebè's king, and noblest fame  
And fulness of triumphal bliss.  
But now whose story mournfuller is?  
Who so in life's vicissitude  
Hath fellowship with fortune rude,  
Checkless calamity and boundless pain?

O Oedipus renowned,  
Who in one haven found  
Room both for son and sire  
To haunt with nuptial fire,

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

πῶς ποτε πῶς ποθ' αἰ πατρώαί σ' ἄλοκες φέρειν,  
 τάλαι, 1210  
 σίγ' ἔδυνάσθησαν ἐς τοσόνδε;

ἀντ. β'.

ἔφευρέ σ' ἄκονθ' ὁ πάνθ' ὀρών χρόνος,  
 δικάζει τὸν ἄγαμον γάμον πάλαι,  
 τεκνοῦντα καὶ τεκνούμενον. 1215

ἰώ, Λαίειον ὦ τέκνον,  
 εἶθε σ', εἶθε σε  
 μήποτ' εἰδόμαν.  
 δύρομαι γὰρ ὡς περιάλλ' ἱακχίων  
 ἐκ στομάτων. τὸ δ' ὀρθὸν εἰπεῖν, ἀνέπνευσά τ' ἐκ  
 σέθεν 1220  
 καὶ κατεκοίμησα τοῦμὸν ὄμμα.

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦ γῆς μέγιστα τῆσδ' αἰεὶ τιμώμενοι, [Ἰντροί.  
 οἳ ἔργ' ἀκούσεσθ', οἷα δ' εἰσόψεσθ', ὅσον δ'  
 ἀρεῖσθε πένθος, εἴπερ ἐγγενῶς ἔτι 1225  
 τῶν Λαβδακείων ἐντρέπεσθε δωμάτων.  
 οἶμαι γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν Ἰστρον οὔτε Φᾶσιν ἂν  
 νίψαι καθαρμῶ τήνδε τὴν στέγην, ὅσα  
 κεύθει, τὰ δ' αὐτίκ' εἰς τὸ φῶς φανεί κακὰ  
 ἐκόντα κοῦκ ἄκοντα. τῶν δὲ πημονῶν 1230  
 μάλιστα λυποῦσ' ἀλ' φανῶσ' αὐθαίρετοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λείπει μὲν οὐδ' ἂ πρόσθεν ἤδεμεν τὸ μὴ οὐ  
 βαρύστον εἶναι· πρὸς δ' ἐκείνοισιν τί φῆς;

KING OEDIPUS.

Ah! how couldst thou so long remain  
The furrower of thy father's field,  
Borne patiently and unrevealed?  
Crimes from thyself concealed  
All-searching Time hath opened to the day,  
And shown thee with clear ray,  
Long while in hideous bond, spouse, father, child.  
O Læus' fatal son,  
Would I had ne'er thee known!  
My heart cries loud for thee  
In tones of agony,  
And frenzied exclamation wild.  
For, to speak sooth, thou didst renew my life,  
And gav'st mine eye sweet respite after strife.

SECOND MESSENGER.

*[Enters from the Palace.]*

O ye whom Thebè still hath chosen in chief  
To honour, what a spectacle of woe  
Awaits your eyes, your ears; what piercing grief  
Your hearts must suffer, if as kinsmen should  
Ye still regard the house of Læus!  
Not Phasis, nor the Danube's rolling flood  
Can ever wash away the stains, and purge  
This mansion of the horror that it hides.  
And more it soon shall give to light, not now  
Unconsciously determined. Of all ill,  
Self-chosen sorrows are the worst to bear.

CHORUS.

What hast thou new to add? the weight of grief  
From that we know burdens the heart enough.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὁ μὲν τάχιστα τῶν λόγων εἶπειν τε καὶ  
μαθεῖν, τέθνηκε θεῖου Ἰοκάστης κάρα.

1235

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ δυστάλαινα, πρὸς τίνος ποτ' αἰτίας ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτῆς · τῶν δὲ πραχθέντων τὰ μὲν  
ἄλγιστ' ἄπεστιν · ἡ γὰρ ὄψις οὐ πύρα.  
ὅμως δ', ὅσον γε κὰν ἐμοὶ μνήμης ἔνι,  
πεύσει τὰ κείνης ἀθλίας παθήματα.

1240

ὅπως γὰρ ὀργῇ χρωμένη παρῆλθ' ἔσω  
θυρῶνος, ἴετ' εὐθὺ πρὸς τὰ νυμφικὰ  
λέχη, κόμην σπῶσ' ἀμφιδεξιούς ἀκμαῖς.  
πύλας δ' ὅπως εἰσῆλθ' ἐπιρράξασ' ἔσω  
καλεῖ τὸν ἤδη Δαίον πάλαι νεκρόν,

1245

μνήμην παλαιῶν σπερμάτων ἔχουσ', ὑφ' ὧν  
θάνοι μὲν αὐτός, τὴν δὲ τίκτουσαν λίποι  
τοῖς οἰσιν αὐτοῦ δύστεκνον παιδουργίαν.

γοᾶτο δ' εὐνάς, ἔνθα δύστηνος διπλοῦς  
ἔξ ἀνδρὸς ἄνδρα καὶ τέκν' ἐκ τέκνων τέκοι.

1250

χῶπως μὲν ἐκ τῶνδ' οὐκέτ' οἶδ' ἀπόλλυται ·  
βοῶν γὰρ εἰσέπαισεν Οἰδίπους, ὑφ' οὗ  
οὐκ ἦν τὸ κείνης ἐκθεάσασθαι κακόν,  
ἀλλ' εἰς ἐκείνον περιπολοῦντ' ἐλεύσσομεν.

φοιτᾶ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἔγχος ἔξαιτῶν πορεῖν,  
γυναϊκὰ τ' οὐ γυναϊκά, μητρώαν δ' ὅπου  
κίχοι διπλὴν ἄρουραν οὐ τε καὶ τέκνων.

1255

KING OEDIPUS.

SECOND MESSENGER.

Soon spoken and soon heard is the chief sum.  
Jocasta's royal head is sunk in death.

CHORUS.

The hapless queen! What was the fatal cause?

SECOND MESSENGER.

Her own determination. Those who saw  
Felt more of pain that ever can be told.  
Yet to the summit of my memory's power  
The wretched lady's passion you shall hear.  
When she had passed in her rash mood within  
The vestibule, straight to the bridal bed  
She rushes, tearing with both hands her hair.  
Then having entered, pulling fast the door,  
She called aloud on Laïus, long dead,  
With living memory of that far-off joy,  
From which he died, and left the mother-queen  
To breed a hideous offspring for his son.  
And loudly o'er the bed she mourned, where she,  
All hapless, had brought forth a twofold brood,  
Husband from husband, children from a child.  
We could not know the moment of her death,  
Which followed soon, for Oedipus with cries  
Burst in, and would not let us see her end,  
But drew all eyes as he careered the hall,  
Demanding arms, and where to find his wife,—  
No, not his wife, but fatal mother-croft,  
Cropped doubly with himself and his own seed.

## ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

λυσσῶντι δ' αὐτῷ δαιμόνων δείκνυσί τις·  
 οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀνδρῶν, οἳ παρήμεν ἐγγύθεν.  
 δεινὸν δ' αὖσας ὡς ὑφηγητοῦ τινος 1260  
 πύλαις διπλαῖς ἐνήλατ', ἐκ δὲ πυθμένων  
 ἔκλινε κοῖλα κληῖθρα κάμπιπτει στέγη.  
 οὐ δὴ κρεμαστὴν τὴν γυναῖκ' ἐσειδομεν,  
 πλεκταῖσιν αἰώραισιν ἐμπεπληγμένην.  
 ὁ δ' ὡς ὄρα νιν, δεινὰ βρυχηθεὶς τάλας, 1265  
 χαλᾶ κρεμαστὴν ἀρτάνην. ἐπεὶ δὲ γῆ  
 ἔκειτο τλήμων, δεινὰ δ' ἦν τὰνθένδ' ὄραν.  
 ἀποσπᾶσας γὰρ εἰμάτων χρυσηλάτους  
 περόνας ἀπ' αὐτῆς, αἰσιν ἐξεστέλλετο,  
 ἄρας ἔπαισεν ἄρθρα τῶν αὐτοῦ κύκλων, 1270  
 αὐδῶν τοιαῦθ', ὀθούνεκ' οὐκ ὄψοιντό νιν  
 οὔθ' οἷ' ἔπασχεν οὔθ' ὅποι' ἔδρα κακά,  
 ἀλλ' ἐν σκότῳ τὸ λοιπὸν οὓς μὲν οὐκ ἔδει  
 ὀψοῖαθ', οὓς δ' ἔχρηζεν οὐ γνωσοῖατο.  
 τοιαῦτ' ἐφυμνῶν πολλάκις τε κοῦχ' ἄπαξ 1275  
 ἤρασσ' ἐπαίρων βλέφαρα. φοίνιαι δ' ὁμοῦ  
 γλῆναι γένει ἔτεγγον, οὐδ' ἀνίσαν  
 φόνου μυδώσας σταγόνας, ἀλλ' ὁμοῦ μέλας  
 ὄμβρος χαλαΐζης αἱματοῦς ἐτέγγετο.  
 τὰδ' ἐκ δυοῖν ἔρρωγεν, οὐ μόνου κακά, 1280  
 ἀλλ' ἀνδρὶ καὶ γυναικὶ συμμιγῆ κακά.  
 ὁ πρὶν παλαιὸς δ' ὄλβος ἦν πύροιθε μὲν  
 ὄλβος δικαίως· νῦν δὲ τῆδε θῆμέρα  
 στεναγμός, ἄτη, θάνατος, αἰσχύνη, κακῶν  
 ὅσ' ἐστὶ πάντων ὀνόματ', οὐδέν' ἐστ' ἀπὸν. 1285

KING OEDIPUS.

And in his rage some demon pointed him  
The way, — for 'twas no man of us at hand.  
And with a fearful shout, as following  
Some leader, he assailed the folding doors.  
Then hollowing inwards from the mortised bolts  
The yielding boards, he breaks into the room;  
Where high suspended we beheld the queen,  
In twisted cordage violently swung.  
And he with terrible outcry when he saw,  
Poor king! undid the hanging noose. But when  
She lay upon the ground, 'twas terrible  
To see what followed. For he tore away  
The brooch-pins that had fastened her attire,  
And, lifting, smote his eyeballs to the root,  
Saying, Henceforth they should not see the evil  
Suffered or done by him in the past time,  
But evermore in darkness now should scan  
The features he ought never to have seen,  
And not-discern the souls he longed to know.  
Chanting this strain, not once but oftentimes  
He dashed the points into his eyes; and soon  
The bleeding pupils moistened all his beard,  
Nor stinted the dark flood, but all at once  
The ruddy hail poured forth with plenteous shower.  
Thus from two springs, from man and wife together,  
Burst the joint evil that is now o'erflowing.  
And the old happiness in that past day  
Was truly happy, but the present hour  
Hath groaning, death, disaster, shame, all ill  
Without exemption, that hath e'er been named.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

νῦν δ' ἔσθ' ὁ τλήμων ἔν τινι σχολῇ κακοῦ ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

βοᾷ διοίγειν κλήθρα καὶ δηλοῦν τινα  
 τοῖς πᾶσι Καδμείοισι τὸν πατροκτόνον,  
 τὸν μητρὸς — αὐδῶν ἀνόσι' οὐδὲ ῥητά μοι,  
 ὡς ἐκ χθονὸς ῥίψων ἑαυτόν, οὐδ' ἔτι 1290  
 μενῶν δόμοις ἀραιός, ὡς ἠράσατο.  
 ῥώμης γε μέντοι καὶ προσηγητοῦ τινος  
 δεῖται· τὸ γὰρ νόσημα μείζον ἢ φέρειν.  
 δείξει δὲ καὶ σοί. κλήθρα γὰρ πυλῶν τάδε  
 διοίγεται· θέαμα δ' εἰσόψει τύχα 1295  
 τοιοῦτον οἶον καὶ στυγούντ' ἐποικτίσαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ δεινὸν ἰδεῖν πάθος ἀνθρώποις, [Introit] C.E.D.  
 ὦ δεινότατον πάντων ὅσ' ἐγὼ  
 προσέκυρσ' ἤδη. τίς σ', ὦ τλήμων,  
 προσέβη μανία ; τίς ὁ πηδήσας 1300  
 μείζονα δαίμων τῶν μακίστων  
 πρὸς σῆ δυσδαίμονι μοίρα ;  
 φεῦ φεῦ, δύσταν'· ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐσιδεῖν  
 δύναμαί σε, θέλων πόλλ' ἀνερέσθαι,  
 πολλὰ πυθέσθαι, πολλὰ δ' ἀβρῆσαι· 1305  
 τοίαν φρίκην παρέχεις μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

αἰαὶ αἰαὶ, δύστανος ἐγώ,  
 ποῖ γὰς φέρομαι τλάμων ; πᾶ μοι



KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

And finds the sufferer now some pause of woe?

SECOND MESSENGER.

He cries to ope the portal and display  
To all the men of Thebè him who slew  
His father, who unto his mother did  
What I dare not repeat, and fain would fling  
His person from the land, nor calmly bide  
The shock of his own curse in his own hall.  
His case craves succour and some guiding hand:  
For such a load of misery who can bear?  
Thyself shalt judge: for, lo, the palace-gate  
Is opening, and thou wilt quickly see  
A hateful sight, yet one thou needs must pity.

CHORUS.

O horror of the world! [OEDIPUS enters.  
Too great for mortal eye!  
Terrible beyond all my life hath known!  
What madness, O poor head!  
Assailed thee? Who in heaven  
Hath leap'd against thy hapless lot  
With boundings out of measure fierce and huge?  
Ah! wretched one, I cannot look on thee:  
No, though I long to search, to ask, to learn.  
Thine aspect is too horrible. I cannot!

OEDIPUS.

Oh! miserable am I.  
Where am I borne? Ah woe!

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

φθογὰ δι' ἄλας πέταται φοράδην ; 1310  
 ἰὼ δαῖμον, ἴν' ἐξήλλου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐς δεινόν, οὐδ' ἀκουστόν, οὐδ' ἐπόψιμον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

στρ. α.

ἰὼ σκότου  
 νέφος ἐμὸν ἀπότροπον, ἐπιπλόμενον ἄφατον,  
 ἀδάματόν τε καὶ δυσούριστον ὄν. 1315  
 οἴμοι,  
 οἴμοι μάλ' αὖθις· οἶον εἰσέδν μ' ἅμα  
 κέντρων τε τῶνδ' οἴσθημα καὶ μνήμη κακῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ θαυμά γ' οὐδὲν ἐν τοσοῖσδε πήμασιν  
 διπλᾶ σε πευθεῖν καὶ διπλᾶ φέρειν κακά. 1320

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀντ. α.

ἰὼ φίλος,  
 σὺ μὲν ἐμὸς ἐπίπολος ἔτι μόνιμος· ἔτι γὰρ  
 ὑπομένεις με τὸν τυφλὸν κηδεύων.  
 φεῦ φεῦ.  
 οὐ γάρ με λήθεις, ἀλλὰ γιγνώσκω σαφῶς, 1325  
 καίπερ σκοτεινός, τήν γε σὴν αὐδὴν ὄμως.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ δεινὰ δράσας, πῶς ἔτλης τοιαῦτα σὰς  
 ὄψεις μαρᾶναι ; τίς σ' ἐπῆρε δαιμόνων ;

KING OEDIPUS.

Where do these accents flow,  
Tossed waveringly?  
O Genius! whither hath thy fury soar'd?

CHORUS.

To a pitch too dread for speech, by sight abhorr'd.

OEDIPUS.

O cloud of dark, on me  
Sent loweringly!  
Hideous, unutterable,  
Invincible!  
Too surely wafted on.  
Ah me! Again I moan.  
These piercing wounds with agonizing smart  
Sharpen the pang of memory at mine heart.

CHORUS.

No marvel, if in this assault of woe  
Thy miseries with redoubled fulness flow.

OEDIPUS.

Friend of the years that were,  
O constant kind!  
Still dost thou tend the blind,  
Unwearied in thy care!  
Ah! 'tis thy voice, I know thee by that tone;  
Dark though I be, thou dost not lurk unknown.

CHORUS.

Agent of horror! whence hadst thou the force  
To waste those orbs? what power impelled thy course?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

στρ. β'.

Ἄπόλλων τάδ' ἦν, Ἀπόλλων, φίλοι,  
ὁ κακὰ κακὰ τελῶν ἐμὰ τάδ' ἐμὰ πάθεα. 1330  
ἔπαισε δ' αὐτόχειρ νιν οὔτις, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τλάμων.  
τί γὰρ ἔδει μ' ὀράν,  
ὄτφ γ' ὀρώντι μηδὲν ἦν ἰδεῖν γλυκύ; 1335

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἦν ταύθ' ὄπωσπερ καὶ σὺ φῆς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ βλεπτόν, ἢ στερκτόν, ἢ προσήγορον  
ἔτ' ἔστ' ἀκούειν ἰδουῶ, φίλοι;  
ἀπάγετ' ἐκτόπιον ὅτι τάχιστά με, 1340  
ἀπάγετ'. ὦ φίλοι, τὸν μέγ' ὀλέθριον,  
τὸν καταρατότατον, ἔτι δὲ καὶ θεοῖς 1345  
ἐχθρότατον βροτῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δείλαιε τοῦ νοῦ τῆς τε συμφορᾶς ἴσον,  
ὡς σ' ἠθέλησα μῆδ' ἀναγνώναί ποτ' ἄν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀντ. β'.

ὄλοιθ' ὅστις ἦν ὄς ἀγρίας πέδας  
νομάδ' ἐπιποδίας ἔλαβέ μ' ἀπό τε φόνου 1350  
ἔρυτο κἀνέσωσεν, οὐδὲν εἰς χάριν πράσσων.  
τότε γὰρ ἂν θανῶν  
οὐκ ἦν φίλοισιν οὐδ' ἐμοὶ τοσονδ' ἄχος. 1355

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Apollo's was the power, Apollo wrought my woe :  
But mine, and no man's else, the hand that struck the blow.  
Why, friends, should I have sight,  
When nought could meet my vision with delight?

CHORUS.

Ay, thou say'st truly there !

OEDIPUS.

What could I see, what hear,  
That e'er again could move  
My heart with love, or sweetly soothe mine ear?  
Friends, with what speed ye may  
Lead me from hence away,  
Me the accursèd thing,  
Ruined and ruining.  
Ay, and o'er all on Earth by Heaven abhorr'd.

CHORUS.

Not least unhappy for thy depth of heart !  
Would I had never known thee who thou art !

OEDIPUS.

Perish, who 'midst the wild from cruel fettering band  
Took me and saved from death, vain kindness, idly plann'd !  
Had I but perished then,  
Nor I, nor those I loved, had known this pain.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

θέλοντι κάμοι τοῦτ' ἂν ἦν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐκουν πατρός γ' ἂν φονεὺς ἦλθον, οὐδὲ νυμφίος  
βροτοῖς ἐκλήθην ὧν ἔφυν ἄπο.

νῦν δ' ἄθεος μὲν εἰμ', ἀνοσίῳν δὲ παῖς, 1360

ὁμογενῆς δ' ἀφ' ὧν αὐτὸς ἔφυν τάλας.

εἰ δέ τι πρῆσβύτερον ἔτι κακοῦ κακόν, 1365

τοῦτ' ἔλαχ' Οἰδίπους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως σε φῶ βεβουλεύσθαι καλῶς.

κρείσσων γὰρ ἦσθα μηκέτ' ὧν ἡ ζῶν τυφλός.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὡς μὲν τάδ' οὐχ ὧδ' ἔστ' ἄριστ' εἰργασμένα,  
μή μ' ἐκδίδασκε, μηδὲ συμβούλευ' ἔτι. 1370

ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ οἶδ' ὄμμασιν ποίοις βλέπων  
πατέρα ποτ' ἂν προσεῖδον εἰς Ἄιδου μολών,

οὐδ' αὖτάλαιναν μητέρ', οἷν ἐμοὶ δυοῖν  
ἔργ' ἐστὶ κρείσσων ἀγχόνης εἰργασμένα.

ἀλλ' ἡ τέκνων δῆτ' ὄψις ἦν ἐφίμερος, 1375

βλαστοῦσ' ὅπως ἔβλαστε, προσλεύσσει ἐμοί;

οὐ δῆτα τοῖς γ' ἐμοῖσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς ποτε·

οὐδ' ἄστν γ', οὐδὲ πύργος, οὐδὲ δαιμόνων

ἀγύλμαθ' ἱρά, τῶν ὁ παντλήμων ἐγὼ

κάλλιστ' ἀνὴρ εἰς ἔν γε ταῖς Θήβαις τραφεῖς 1380

ἀπεστέρησ' ἐμαυτόν, αὐτὸς ἐννέπων

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

I join thee in that prayer.

OEDIPUS.

Then I had ne'er been shown  
My father's slayer, nor known  
My mother's bridal in the face of men.  
Now, heaven-abandonèd,  
Of crime and horror bred,  
I have shared a father's bed.  
What woe ranks highest in ill? my life hath found that  
word.

CHORUS.

I know not how to call thee wise in this,  
Better be out of life than blindly live.

OEDIPUS.

That this last act hath not been for the best  
Censure me not, nor counsel me again.  
For how, if I had eyes, could I have looked  
In Hades on my father's countenance,  
Or my all-hapless mother, when, toward both,  
Crimes worse than capital are on my head?  
Ah! but my children were a sight of joy,  
Offspring of such a union! were they so?  
Never, to eyes of mine! nor town, nor tower,  
Nor holy fanes o' the gods, which I myself,  
O misery, have sundered from myself,  
I, dowered with fairest life of Theban men,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ὠθεῖν ἅπαντας τὸν ἀσεβῆ, τὸν ἐκ θεῶν  
φανέντ' ἀναγνον καὶ γένους τοῦ Δαΐτου.  
τοιάνδ' ἐγὼ κηλῖδα μηνύσας ἐμῆν  
ὀρθοῖς ἐμελλον ὄμμασιν τούτους ὄρᾶν; 1385  
ἦκιστά γ'· ἀλλ' εἰ τῆς ἀκουούσης ἔτ' ἦν  
πηγῆς δι' ὧτων φραγμός, οὐκ ἂν ἐσχόμην  
τὸ μῆποκλῆσαι τοῦμὸν ἄθλιον δέμας,  
ἴν' ἦν τυφλός τε καὶ κλύων μηδέν· τὸ γὰρ  
τὴν φροντίδ' ἔξω τῶν κακῶν οἰκεῖν γλυκύ. 1390  
ἰὼ Κιθαιρών, τί μ' ἐδέχου; τί μ' οὐ λαβὼν  
ἔκτεινας εὐθύς, ὡς ἔδειξα μήποτε  
ἐμαντὸν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔνθεν ἦν γεγώς;  
ὦ Πόλυβε καὶ Κόρινθε καὶ τὰ πάτρια  
λόγῳ παλαιὰ δάμαθ', οἶον ἄρα με 1395  
κάλλος κακῶν ὑπουλον ἐξεθρέψατε.  
(νῦν γὰρ κακός τ' ὦν κακῶν εὐρίσκομαι.)  
ὦ τρεῖς κέλευθοι καὶ κεκρυμμένη νάπη  
δρυμός τε καὶ στενωπὸς ἐν τριπλαῖς ὁδοῖς,  
αἱ τοῦμὸν αἷμα τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν ἄπο 1400  
ἐπίετε πατρός, ἄρα μου μέμνησθέ τι,  
οἱ ἔργα δράσας ὑμῖν εἶτα δεῦρ' ἰὼν  
ὅποι' ἔπρασσον αὐθις; ὦ γάμοι γάμοι,  
ἐφύσαθ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ φυτεύσαντες πάλιν  
ἀνείτε ταῦτ' ὄν σπέρμα, κἀπεδείξατε 1405  
πατέρας, ἀδελφούς, παιδας, αἰμ' ἐμφύλιον,  
νύμφας, γυναῖκας, μητέρας τε, χῶπόσα  
αἴσχιστ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔργα γίγνεται.  
ἀλλ' — οὐ γὰρ αὐδᾶν ἔσθ' ἂ μηδὲ δρᾶν καλόν —



KING OEDIPUS.

Proclaiming to drive off from every door  
Whom Heaven had marked for impious and impure,  
Nay worse, of Læus born! And was I then,  
By mine own process branded thus, to look  
On Theban faces with unaltered mien?  
Nay verily; but had there been a way  
To stop the hearing fountain through the ear,  
I had not faltered, but had closed and barred  
Each gate of this poor body; deaf and blind!  
So thought might sweetly dwell at rest from harm.  
Cithæron! Why didst take me to thy breast,  
Not slaying me then and there? So had I not  
Told to the world the horror of my birth.  
O foster-home of Corinth and her king,  
How bright the life ye cherished, filming o'er  
What foulness far beneath! For I am vile,  
And vile have been my parents. So 'tis proved.  
O cross-road in the covert of the glen,  
O thicket in the gorge where three ways met,  
Bedewed by these my hands with mine own blood,  
From whence I sprang — have you forgotten me?  
Or doth some memory haunt you of the deeds  
I did before you, and then came and wrought  
Fresh horrors here? O doubly cursèd womb!  
That gendered me, and then again sent forth  
New offsets from the seed so genderèd:  
Mazing the world with dire confusion  
Of father, brother, son, bride, mother, wife,  
Murder of parents, and all shames that are.  
But for that in respect of hideous deeds  
Silence is commendable, I beg you now

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὅπως τάχιστα πρὸς θεῶν ἔξω μέ που 1410  
 καλύψατ', ἢ φονεύσατ', ἢ θαλάσσιον  
 ἐκρίψατ', ἔνθα μήποτ' εἰσόψεσθ' ἔτι.  
 ἴτ', ἀξιώσατ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου θιγεῖν.  
 πίθεσθε, μὴ δείσητε. τὰμὰ γὰρ κακὰ  
 οὐδεὶς οἶός τε πλὴν ἐμοῦ φέerein βροτῶν. 1415

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὦν ἐπαιτεῖς ἐς δέον πάρεσθ' ὄδε  
 Κρέων τὸ πράσσειν καὶ τὸ βουλευεῖν, ἐπεὶ  
 χώρας λέλειπται μούνος ἀντὶ σοῦ φύλαξ.

ΟΙΑΠΙΟΤΣ.

οἴμοι, τί δῆτα λέξομεν πρὸς τόνδ' ἔπος ;  
 τίς μοι φανεῖται πίστις ἔνδικος ; τὰ γὰρ 1420  
 πάρος πρὸς αὐτὸν πάντ' ἐφεύρημαι κακός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔθ' ὡς γελαστής, Οἰδίπους, ἐλήλυθα, [Introit].  
 οὔθ' ὡς ὄνειδιῶν τι τῶν πάρος κακῶν.  
 ἀλλ' εἰ τὰ θνητῶν μὴ καταισχύνεσθ' ἔτι  
 γένεθλα, τὴν γοῦν πάντα βόσκουσαν φλόγα 1425  
 αἰδεῖσθ' ἀνακτος Ἑλίου, τοιόνδ' ἄγος  
 ἀκάλυπτον οὔτω δεικνύναι, τὸ μήτε γῆ  
 μήτ' ὄμβρος ἱρὸς μήτε φῶς προσδέξεται.  
 ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἐς οἶκον ἐσκομίζετε·  
 τοῖς ἐν γένει γὰρ τὰγγενῆ μάλισθ' ὄρᾶν 1430  
 μόνοις τ' ἀκούειν εὐσεβῶς ἔχει κακά.

KING OEDIPUS.

To hurl me forth at once from human view.  
Slay me outright, or fling me far to sea,  
Where ye may never look on me again.  
Come, lend your hand unto my misery.  
Comply, and fear not, for my strain of woe  
Is incommunicable to all but me.

CHORUS.

With timely presence to fulfil thy word  
With act and counsel, Creon comes, who now  
Is regent o'er our city in thy room.

OEDIPUS.

Alas, what shall I say to him? What plea  
Will hold for my defence? My wickedness  
Towards him in all the past is clearly seen.

CREON.

*[Enters from the city.]*

I come not, Oedipus, to mock thy woes,  
Or to reproach thee for thine evils past.  
But ye, if all respect of mortal eye  
Be dead, let awe of the universal flame  
Of life's great nourisher, our lord the Sun,  
Forbid your holding thus unveiled to view  
This huge abomination, which nor Earth  
Nor sacred Element, nor light of Heaven  
Can once endure. Convey him in with speed.  
Religion bids that kindred eyes and ears  
Alone should witness kindred crime and woe.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πρὸς θεῶν, ἐπέειπερ ἐλπίδος μ' ἀπέσπασας,  
ἄριστος ἐλθὼν πρὸς κάκιστον ἄνδρ' ἐμέ,  
πιθοῦ τί μοι· πρὸς σοῦ γάρ, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ, φράσω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ τοῦ με χρείας ὧδε λιπαρεῖς τυχεῖν;

1435

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ρίψόν με γῆς ἐκ τῆσδ' ὅσον τάχισθ', ὅπου  
θνητῶν φανούμαι μηδενὸς προσήγορος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἔδρασ' ἂν εὖ τοῦτ' ἴσθ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τοῦ θεοῦ  
πρώτιστ' ἔχρηζον ἐκμαθεῖν τί πρακτέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἦ γ' ἐκείνου πᾶσ' ἐδηλώθη φάτις,  
τὸν πατροφόντην, τὸν ἀσεβῆ μ' ἀπολλύναι.

1440

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὕτως ἐλέχθη ταῦθ'· ὅμως δ', ἵν' ἕσταμεν  
χρείας, ἄμεινον ἐκμαθεῖν τί δραστέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὕτως ἄρ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου πεύσεσθ' ὕπερ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ γὰρ σὺ νῦν τᾶν τῷ θεῷ πίστιν φέροις.

1445

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

By Heaven, since thou hast wrenched me from my fear,  
So nobly meeting my unworthiness,  
I pray thee hear me for thine own behoof.

CREON.

What boon dost thou desire so earnestly?

OEDIPUS.

Fling me with utmost swiftness from the land,  
Where I may never speak with mortal more.

CREON.

Doubt not I would have done so, but the god  
Must first be questioned for our guidance here.

OEDIPUS.

Sure unequivocal was his behest,  
The parricide, the impious, should be slain.

CREON.

So it was spoken: but, in such a time,  
We needs must be advised more perfectly.

OEDIPUS.

And will ye ask him for a wretch like me?

CREON.

Yes. For even thou methinks wilt now believe.

## ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

## ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ σοί γ' ἐπισκῆπτω τε καὶ προτρέψομαι,  
 τῆς μὲν κατ' οἴκους αὐτὸς ὄν θέλεις τάφον  
 θοῦ· καὶ γὰρ ὀρθῶς τῶν γε σῶν τελεῖς ὑπερ·  
 ἐμοῦ δὲ μήποτ' ἀξιωθήτω τόδε  
 πατρῶον ἄστυ ζῶντος οἰκητοῦ τυχεῖν, 1450  
 ἀλλ' ἔα με ναίειν ὄρεσιν, ἔνθα κλήζεται  
 οὐμὸς Κιθαιρῶν οὗτος, ὄν· μήτηρ τέ μοι  
 πατήρ τ' ἐθέσθην ζῶντε κύριον τάφον,  
 ἴν' ἐξ' ἐκείνων, οἳ μ' ἀπαλλύτην, θάνω.  
 καίτοι τοσοῦτόν γ' οἶδα, μήτε μ' ἂν νόσον 1455  
 μήτ' ἄλλο πέρσαι μηδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε  
 θνήσκων ἐσώθην, μὴ' πὶ τῷ δεινῷ κακῷ.  
 ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν ἡμῶν μοῖρ', ὅποιπερ εἶσ', ἴτω·  
 παιδῶν δὲ τῶν μὲν ἀρσένων μή μοι, Κρέον,  
 προσθῆ μέριμναν· ἄνδρες εἰσίν, ὥστε μὴ 1460  
 σπάνιν ποτὲ σχεῖν, ἔνθ' ἂν ὦσι, τοῦ βίου·  
 ταῖν δ' ἀθλίαιν οἰκτραῖν τε παρθένοιον ἐμαῖν,  
 αἶν οὐποθ' ἡμῆ χωρὶς ἐστάθη βορᾶς  
 τράπεζ' ἄνευ τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ὄσων ἐγὼ  
 ψαύοιμι, πάντων τῶνδ' αἰὲ μετειχέτην· 1465  
 αἶν μοι μέλεσθαι· καὶ μάλιστα μὲν χεροῖν  
 ψαῦσαι μ' ἔασον κάποκλαύσασθαι κακά.  
 ἴθ' ὦναξ,  
 ἴθ' ὦ γονῆ γενναῖε. χερσί τ' ἂν θιγῶν  
 δοκοῖμ' ἔχειν σφᾶς, ὥσπερ ἡνίκ' ἔβλεπον. 1470  
 τί φημί;  
 οὐ δὴ κλύω που πρὸς θεῶν τοῖν μοι φίλιον

KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Not only so. But I will charge thee too,  
With urgent exhortation, to perform  
The funeral rite for her who lies within —  
She is thy kinswoman — howe'er thou wilt.  
But never let this city of my sires  
Claim me for living habitant, but there  
Leave me to range the mountains, where my nurse  
Cithæron, echoeth with my name, Cithæron,  
Which both my parents destined for my grave.  
So my true murderers will be my death.  
Yet one thing I can tell. Mine end will come  
Not by disease nor human casualty.  
I had not lived when at the point to die,  
But for some terrible doom. Then let my fate  
Run out its full career. But for my children  
Thou, Creon, shalt provide. As for my sons,  
I pray thee burden not thyself with them.  
They ne'er will lack subsistence — they are men.  
But my poor maidens, hapless and forlorn,  
Who never had a meal apart from mine,  
But ever shared my table, yea, for them  
Take heedful care; and grant me, if but once,  
Yea, I beseech thee, with these hands to feel,  
Thou noble heart! the forms I love so well,  
And weep with them our common misery.  
Oh, if my arms were round them, I might seem  
To have them, as of old, when I could see.  
What? Am I fooled once more, or do I hear

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

δακρυρροούντων, καί μ' ἐποικτείας Κρέων  
 ἔπεμψέ μοι τὰ φίλτατ' ἐκγόνοι ἐμοῖν ;  
 λέγω τι ;

1475

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγεις · ἐγὼ γάρ εἰμ' ὁ πορσύννας τάδε,  
 γνοὺς τὴν παρούσαν τέρψιν, ἧ σ' εἶχεν πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης, καί σε τῆσδε τῆς ὁδοῦ  
 δαίμων ἄμεινον ἢ μὲ φρουρήσας τύχοι.  
 ᾧ τέκνα, ποῦ ποτ' ἐστέ ; δεῦρ' ἴτ', ἔλθετε  
 ὡς τὰς ἀδελφὰς τάσδε τὰς ἐμὰς χέρας,  
 αἰ τοῦ φυτουργοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῖν ᾧδ' ὀρᾶν  
 τὰ πρόσθε λαμπρὰ προυξένησαν ὄμματα ·  
 ὅς ὑμῖν, ᾧ τέκν', οὔθ' ὀρῶν οὔθ' ἱστορῶν  
 πατὴρ ἐφάνθη ἔνθεν αὐτὸς ἠρόθην.

1480

1485

καὶ σφὼ δακρῦν — προσβλέπειν γὰρ οὐ σθένω —  
 νοούμενος τὰ λοιπὰ τοῦ πικροῦ βίου,

οἶον βιῶναι σφὼ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων χρεῶν.

ποιίας γὰρ ἀστῶν ἤξειτ' εἰς ὀμιλίας,

ποιίας δ' ἑορτάς, ἔνθεν οὐ κεκλαυμέναι

1490

πρὸς οἶκον ἵξεσθ' ἀντὶ τῆς θεωρίας ;

ἀλλ' ἠνίκ' ἂν δὴ πρὸς γάμων ἤκητ' ἀκμάς,

τίς οὗτος ἔσται, τίς παραρρίψει, τέκνα,

τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδή λαμβάνων, ἃ τοῖς ἐμοῖς

γονεύσις ἔσται σφῶν θ' ὁμοῦ δηλήματα ;

1495

τί γὰρ κακῶν ἄπεστι ; τὸν πατέρα πατὴρ

ὑμῶν ἔπεφνε · τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἤροσεν,



KING OEDIPUS.

My dear ones weeping? And hath Creon sent,  
Pitying my sorrows, mine own children to me  
That most I love? Can this be truth I utter?

CREON.

Yea. I have done it. For I knew the joy  
Thou still hast felt in this, thy comfort now.

[*Enter ANTIGONE and ISMENE with Attendants.*]

OEDIPUS.

Fair be thy fortune, then, and, for this speed,  
God guard thee better than he watched o'er me.  
Where are ye, O my children? Come, draw near  
To these my hands of brother blood with you,  
Hands that have thus provided for your gaze  
The once bright lustre of your father's eyes,  
Of mine, who, ignorant and unaware,  
Became your father at that fount of life,  
My children, where I quickened! Oh! for you  
I weep, not seeing you, when I take thought  
Of all the bitter passages of fate  
That yet await you amongst men. For where  
Can ye find fellowship, what civic throng,  
What feast, can ye resort to, but instead  
Of seeing aught, ye will come weeping home?  
And when ye reach the marriageable bloom,  
My daughters, who will be the man to cast  
His lot with the unfortunate, and take  
All those reproaches on his name, which fall  
So heavily on my parents and on you?  
What evil is not here? Your father slew  
His father, and then eared the mother-field,

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὄθεν περ αὐτὸς ἐσπάρη, κάκ τῶν ἴσων  
 ἐκτήσαθ' ὑμᾶς, ὦν περ αὐτὸς ἐξέφυ.  
 τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδιείσθε. κᾶτα τίς γαμῆι ; 1500  
 οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς, ὦ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δηλαδὴ  
 χέρσους φθαρῆναι καγάμους ὑμᾶς χρεῶν.  
 ὦ παῖ Μενοικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατήρ  
 ταύταιν λέλειψαι, νὼ γὰρ, ὦ 'φυτεύσαμεν,  
 ὀλώλαμεν δὺ ὄντε, μή σφε περιίδης 1505  
 πτωχὰς ἀνάνδρους ἐγγενεῖς ἀλωμένας,  
 μηδ' ἐξισώσης τάσδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς.  
 ἀλλ' οἴκτισόν σφας, ὦδε τηλικάσδ' ὀρῶν  
 πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος.  
 ξύννευσον, ὦ γενναῖε, σῆ ψάσας χερί. 1510  
 σφῶν δ', ὦ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἤδη φρένας,  
 πόλλ' ἂν παρήμουν· νῦν δὲ τοῦτ' εὐχασθέ μοι,  
 οὗ καιρὸς αἰεὶ ζῆν, βίου δὲ λῶνος  
 ὑμᾶς κυρῆσαι τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄλλις, ἢ ἐξήκεις δακρύων· ἀλλ' ἴθι στέγης ἔσω. 1515

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πειστέον, κεί μηδὲν ἠδύ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα γὰρ καιρῶ καλά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἶσθ' ἐφ' οἷς οὖν εἶμι ;

KING OEDIPUS.

Where he himself was sown, and got you from  
The source of his own birth. Such taunts will fly.  
And who will marry you? No man, my daughters;  
But ye must wither childless and unwed.  
Son of Menoeceus, who alone art left  
As father to them twain: for we, their parents,  
Who gave them birth, are utterly undone:  
Suffer them not, being your kinswomen,  
To wander desolate and poor, nor make  
Their lot perforce the counterpart of mine.  
But have compassion on their youth, thus left  
Forlorn of all protection save from thee.  
Noble one, seal this promise with thy hand.  
For you, my children, were ye of an age  
To ponder speech, I would have counselled you  
Full carefully. Now I would have you pray  
To dwell where 'tis convenient, that your life  
May find more blessing than your father knew.

CREON.

Thou hast had enough of weeping. Close thee in thy  
chamber walls.

OEDIPUS.

I must yield, though sore against me.

CREON.

Yes, for strong occasion calls.

OEDIPUS.

Know'st thou on what terms I yield it?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέξεις, καὶ τότε εἶσομαι κλύων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

γῆς μ' ὅπως πέμφεις ἄποικον.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ θεοῦ μ' αἰτεῖς δόσιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλὰ θεοῖς γ' ἔχθιστος ἦκω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοιγαροῦν τεύξει τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

φῆς τάδ' οὖν ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἂ μὴ φρονῶ γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ λέγειν μάτην. 1520

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἄπαγέ νύν μ' ἐντεῦθεν ἤδη.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

στεῖχέ νυν, τέκνων δ' ἀφοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μηδαμῶς ταύτας γ' ἔλη μου.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα μὴ βούλου κρατεῖν·  
καὶ γὰρ ἀκράτησας οὐ σοι τῷ βίῳ ξυνέσπετο. [Exeunt.]

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

Tell me, let me hear and know.

OEDIPUS.

That you send me from the country.

CREON.

God alone can let thee go.

OEDIPUS.

But the gods long since abhor me.

CREON.

This the sooner thou wilt gain.

OEDIPUS.

Then consent.

CREON.

'Tis not my wont to venture promises in vain

OEDIPUS.

Lead me now within the palace.

CREON.

Come, but let thy children be

OEDIPUS.

Tear not these from my embraces!

CREON.

Think not all things are for thee.

Even the good thou once obtainedst hath not held thy  
life in fee.

[*All go within.*]

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ πάτρας Θήβης ἔνοικοι, λεύσσει, Οἰδίπους ὄδε,  
ὃς τὰ κλείν' αἰνίγματ' ἤδη καὶ κράτιστος ἦν ἀνὴρ, 1525  
ὅστις οὐ ζήλω πολιτῶν καὶ τύχαις ἐπιβλέπων,  
εἰς ὅσον κλύδωνα δεινῆς συμφορᾶς ἐλήλυθεν.  
ὥστε, θνητὸν ὄντ', ἐκείνην τὴν τελευταίαν ἰδεῖν  
ἡμέραν ἐπισκοποῦντα, μηδέν' ὀλβίζειν, πρὶν ἂν  
τέρμα τοῦ βίου περάσῃ μηδὲν ἄλγεινὸν παθῶν. 1530

[Exit CHORUS.]

KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

Ye who dwell in Thebes our city, fix on Oedipus your eyes,  
Who resolved the dark enigma, noblest liver and most wise.  
Glorious, like a sun he mounted, envied of the popular  
throng;

Now he sinks in seas of anguish, quenched the stormy  
waves among.

Therefore I await the final hour, to ancient wisdom known,  
Ere I call one mortal happy. Never shall that thought  
be shown,

Till he end his earthly being, scathless of a sigh or groan.

*[Retires to the City.]*



















